

Long queues as Rhodesia goes to the polls

People have slept rough, walked for up to 50 miles and have waited through the night in order to vote in the Southern Rhodesian elections. Random opinions gathered from the enormous queues agree that the ballot is secret and fair.

Voters accept that ballot is secret

From Den van der Vat
Ivyanga, Rhodesia, Feb 27
African voters turned out in their thousands in this war-torn district of Southern Rhodesia today in an impressive and also moving demonstration of what certainly looked like democracy in action.
After seven years of war, two shaky months of ceasefire in which life has not had time to return to normal and much talk of intimidation, the campaigning is at an end and the voters are giving birth to Zimbabwe.
The voter's role is not a light one in remote rural areas like this. There are six polling stations to cover an area of 2,500 square miles of rough country. Yet 50 miles in the enormous queues were waiting to vote in 50 miles over two days to be able to cast their votes on the first day. Last night they slept rough in the open.

Voters confused on procedure

At Ivyanga itself, the settlement which gives its name to the administrative district, I found a quiet, good-humoured queue of about 1,000 people waiting to vote. Talking to them at random on the way to the court house where the polling booths are, I found that every group to whom I spoke accepted that the ballot was secret.

The three polling stations I visited each had a queue of about 200 voters an hour. As Africans have not had the opportunity to become used to voting, there was a lot of confusion about the procedure which held things up.

I saw one woman making what looked like a paper aeroplane out of a green ballot paper before trying to force it through the slot in the top of the sealed ballot box.

Women were rather more in evidence than men, but election officials expected many more men to appear after work or on the two remaining polling days.

Ivyanga district shares 125 miles of border with Mozambique and was thus one of the areas suffering the heaviest incursions during the guerrilla war.

The evidence is everywhere in the shape of an abandoned mission station, burnt out buildings, wrecked vehicles and deserted shops and farms.

The schools have just opened again after having been closed by guerrillas for up to two years.

At the "internal settlement" election in April last year, the voters of Ivyanga stayed at home, producing one of the lowest turnouts in the country. This time they are out in force and they can, as Shona-speakers, be expected to produce a large majority for Robert Mugabe's Zanu (PF) Party, whose Zanu guerrilla army dominated the area for so long.

The scene at Ivyanga itself faded into insignificance when I reached St Mary's mission polling station to the north. Approaching the abandoned mission complex by helicopter, I watched an enormous queue come into sight which, had it stood in a straight line, would have stretched two miles and must have contained 4,000 to 5,000 people.

Election officials said that at this rate they could not cope and had sent for another set of polling cubicles to double the "output" of voters. Once again the crowd was in good humour despite having waited for four hours or more in many cases.

Further north still, at the polling station at Ruungwe, close to Echo guerrilla assembly area, some 3,500 people were waiting in the sun. This time they were in several queues from which 10 at a time were called forward in turn to go into the cubicles.

There I met Sergeant Errol Flanagan, a Metropolitan policeman of Welsh origin normally stationed at Bromley, Kent. "We've been busy this morning," he said, "but there haven't been any incidents apart from a pregnant woman having to be helped out by military aircraft to give birth."

The Zanu (PF) Party agent was a bit over-exuberant at first but he's all right now. I'm being looked after very well—the only complaint I've got is that I thought there would be a bit more rain. It's drier in England when I left it than it's been here."

The past few days have brought much early morning rain, breaking a drought. The state of the dirt-track roads in the area made it impossible to cover all six polling stations in one day.

Heavy voting: The heaviest turnout was in Salisbury where some people started to queue outside polling stations in the middle of the night. Officials reported that some polling stations in the capital were handling 600 to 700 voters an hour (Nicholas Ashford writes from Salisbury).

Unlike last April's election when a carnival atmosphere prevailed, the mood of the voters this time seemed more sober and restrained. However if the singing and dancing were absent this time, so too were allegations of electoral malpractices.

Few complaints by party officials

The few complaints that have so far been made by party officials seem to have involved misunderstandings of voting procedure and most were quickly resolved by British election supervisors.

The presence of British policemen at most of the rural and some of the urban polling stations seems to have had a reassuring effect on many voters. Dressed in a lightweight version of their "British bobbies" uniform and complete with helmets, they could be seen keeping a weather eye on proceedings.

Mr Lloyd Buhme, a teacher who voted in Madziva tribal trust land, told me he felt the election would be fair this time "because the policeman from Britain means I can vote for who I want."

Mr John Boynton, the election commissioner, announced this evening that at 3 pm today a total of 886,482 people had cast their votes. This was 318,000 more than at the same time during last April's election.

Many areas, particularly in the tribal trust lands, where there were small turnouts last year, experienced much heavier polling this time.

Mugabe request, page 6



Airliner fire: Passengers run for their lives from a blazing airliner at Manila airport. The China Airlines Boeing 707 arriving from Taipei, lost two engines and caught fire on landing yesterday. At least 132 people of the 135 on board escaped. A China Airlines spokesman said last night that three passengers are missing, but the tally of injured in Manila hospitals was incomplete. An emergency escape chute went up in flames while passengers were running from the aircraft forcing some to leap several yards to the tarmac. Of the surviving passengers, 74 were unhurt, 10 slightly injured, and 37 seriously burnt or suffered fractures or abrasions. Several were in a critical condition, the airline spokesman said. Ten of the 11 crew were in hospital. Some of those who escaped walked away from the wreck, leading officials to fear for a time that they had been trapped in the burning airliner. Most of those on board were tourists from Taiwan, but the passenger list also included Americans, Japanese, West Germans, British, Australians and Costa Ricans.

Moscow hints at what West could do to help resolve Afghan crisis

Moscow, Feb 27.—In a two-hour meeting with Dr Armand Hammer, an American businessman, President Leonid Brezhnev today set out for the first time the type of guarantees he wants from the United States regarding non-interference in Afghanistan affairs and expressed interest in a suggestion for Soviet-American talks on the crisis.
The 81-year-old Dr Hammer, who has had numerous business links with the Soviet Union, met Mr Brezhnev in the Kremlin. He said the Soviet leader, who is 73, looked "the picture of a healthy man" and spoke mainly from a prepared text and spent considerable time on the Afghanisthan question.
"He said that he felt that the Afghanisthan problem could be solved if the United States and the countries surrounding Afghanistan would guarantee that they would use their influence to see that there is no interference from outside on the internal affairs of Afghanistan," Dr Hammer said.
The comments, as quoted by The Hammer, were similar to those Mr Brezhnev made in a nationwide address on television last week, although for the first time he refined what he meant by guarantees.
"He said he understood that they (the United States and neighbouring countries) could not control all the elements, but they could use their influence. An assurance that any arms shipped to Pakistan would be used for defensive purposes only, would be one form of guarantee."
Dr Hammer, the head of Occidental Petroleum, said he suggested to the Soviet leader that talks should begin immediately between Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State. They could be joined later by the Foreign Ministers of the neighbouring countries.

TUC rejects plea by moderates for state-financed ballots

By Paul Roulledge
Labour Editor
Trade union leaders yesterday chose secret ballots as the main lever in their campaign to frustrate the Government's reform of industrial relations law, and reaffirmed May 14 as a "day of action" against Cabinet policies.
The TUC general council voted 35 to three against a moderate proposal that the unions should not reject out of hand state finance for ballot boxes, election to union office, and that view will be codified into "strong advice" to all affiliated organizations.
Militant union leaders want that symbol of opposition to the Employment Bill made a condition of affiliation to the TUC, as was de-registration under the ill-fated Industrial Relations Act of 1971, so that unions accepting public funds for secret ballots would be expelled from the Trades Union Congress.
Three members of the general council voted against that tough new policy, and asked for their names to be published. They were Mr Frank Chapple, general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, and Sir John Boyd and Mr Terence Duffy, general secretary and president respectively of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. Between them, they represent nearly one-third of the 12 million trade unionists affiliated to the TUC.
Both unions make regular use of postal ballots for union elections, and both clearly wanted to avail themselves of the state aid that was revived in yesterday's meeting by Mr Kenneth Thorne, the Civil Service union leader, as "Judas money".
Government money for ballots has now become the chief totem of opposition to the disparate elements in the Employment Bill being steered through Parliament by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment.

Cuba's taste for foreign wars dying with its pigs

By Gabriel Ronay
Outbreaks of African swine fever have reached epidemic proportions in several provinces of Cuba but, owing to Havana's massive military presence in Africa, the epidemic is creating political problems for Dr Fidel Castro's Government.
The outbreaks of the disease, which is transmitted only through carcasses and live animals, are being blamed on soldiers returning from Angola and Ethiopia, where the sickness, known as "hog cholera", is widespread, according to an East European agricultural expert just back from Cuba.
The extent of the epidemic can be gauged from the recent decision of the Government, reported by the official Prensa Latina agency, to have the entire pig population of Guantanamo Province destroyed. The province produces the bulk of the country's pigmeat.
In a joint operation, units of the province's civil defence corps and health officials, backed up by the Army, slaughtered and burned every pig in Guantanamo.
The resulting meat shortage has further exacerbated the country's economic problems. Because both sugar-cane and tobacco crops have been affected by blight, Cuba will be able to feed its population and secure development in basic industries this year only with massive increase of Comecon aid, according to the source.
In reporting the African swine fever outbreak, the party-controlled Cuban press has got out of its way to dispel the rumours of the African origins of the epidemic. The reports blamed the outbreaks on illegal Haitian refugees landing in boats on Cuba's eastern shores. According to the reports, 2,800 Haitian refugees arrived illegally in the country last year.
Senior Raoul Castro, the Army chief and First Deputy Prime Minister, spoke openly of the country's deepening "internal problems" at the recent ninth plenum of the ruling Communist Party. The class enemy, he declared in a speech quoted by Granma, the party newspaper, was trying to exploit Cuba's internal problems and fish in troubled waters.
Whereas before, imperialism tried to exert external economic pressures and resorted to open, armed interventions, now it was trying to exploit Cuba's economic difficulties by fomenting dissension.
This has taken the form, according to the source, of "extremist actions", among them the forced entry of displaced people into foreign embassies in Havana. These incidents have remained largely unreported.
The Cuban authorities are apparently upset because people whom they describe as "misguided persons" and "common criminals" have succeeded in exploiting the Latin American tradition of asylum by seeking refuge at the embassies of these nations.
According to the source, Havana's relations with these states have become strained because they not only granted these people asylum in their embassies but "took diplomatic steps, including the issuing of notes, in their endeavour to protect them."

President Tito is 'sinking fast'

Belgrade, Feb 27.—President Tito, in grave condition with kidney and cardiac problems, is sinking fast, official Yugoslav sources said tonight.
The sources added that Marshal Tito had been close to death for the past three days and his condition was deteriorating. He was also suffering from pneumonia. Although it was difficult to predict how long he might be able to hold out, it seemed that he would not survive much longer.
Earlier today, the President's doctors disclosed for the first time that he was haemorrhaging. The sources said this involved internal bleeding from small blood vessels, or capillaries, and was a dangerous symptom.
"It is very hard to express this, but the President is sinking fast," one official said.

MP demands inquiry on dirty books guide

By Kenneth Owen
An immediate government inquiry into the buyer's guide to dirty books available on the Post Office's Prestel viewdata service was called for yesterday by Dr Brian Mawhinney, Conservative MP for Peterborough.
Dr Mawhinney, Whitehouse, honorary general secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, also protested. And the Bible Society said it was not very happy at the "porn shop pages".
Details of the pages, which are provided by Mills & Allen Communications, London, were disclosed in The Times yesterday. The Post Office yesterday reaffirmed that the corporation could not censor its Prestel page heading of the guide.
The pages, attributed to a "Mr Rupert Green-Walker", give a brief guide to sex magazines and pornographic novels and a list of five bookshops where such literature can be obtained.
Mr Richard Hooper, managing director of Mills & Allen Communications and director of the Post Office's Prestel service, said that the pages had been available on Prestel since January 10 and no complaint had been received.
Dr Mawhinney, who is attempting to get his Indecent Displays Bill through Parliament, called on Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, to mount a government inquiry into the affair.
Mr Mawhinney said she was amazed the Post Office was providing such a service. "We shall be writing to the head of the Post Office and to the minister concerned."

Sleeping car deaths could and should have been avoided, British Rail told

British Rail's safety standards were severely criticized yesterday in the report of the inquiry into the 1978 Taunton sleeping car fire in which 12 people died.
Mr Norman Fowler, Transport Minister, said that the tragedy "could and should have been avoided". But he was satisfied that British Rail had already taken action, and would follow other recommendations in the inquiry report, to try to ensure that there could be no repetition of the disaster.
Among the main conclusions in the report by Major Tom King, the Railway Inspecting Officer, are:

Many of the sleeping car doors were locked, which hampered evacuation and fire-fighting.
The training, supervision and control of attendants was inadequate.
The attendant responsible may have been asleep.
Major King adds that there were no arrangements for fire detection, no means of raising the alarm, no fire instructions to passengers, and no clearly marked fire exits.
The disaster would have been worse if the train had not stopped near a track telephone close to a town with adequate emergency services.

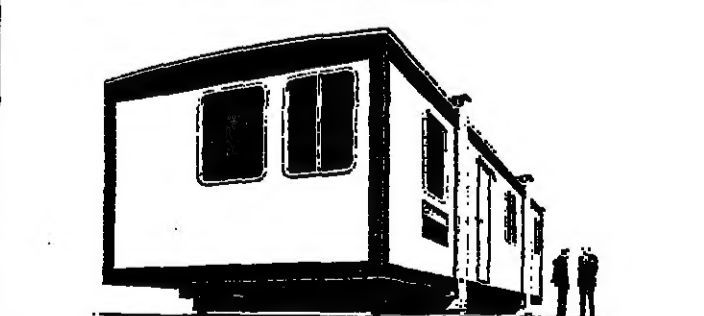
Gunmen seize envoys in Colombia attack

Bogota, Colombia, Feb 27.—Left-wing guerrillas shot their way into the Dominican Embassy here tonight and seized a number of hostages, apparently including the American Ambassador.
First reports indicated that the Ambassador, Mr Diego Asencio, was seriously wounded and that other ambassadors, including those of Austria, Switzerland and the representative of the Vatican had been taken hostage with him.
An estimated 30 diplomats, not all ambassadors, were believed to have been in the Embassy at the time—AP and UPI.

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Irish PAYE cut but drinks and petrol up

Concessions for PAYE taxpayers costing about £200m in a full year were announced by Mr Michael O'Kennedy, Ireland's Minister for Finance, in the first budget under the leadership of Mr Charles Haughey. But petrol and diesel go up by 20p a gallon, a glass of spirits by 16p, a pint of beer by 6p, a standard pack of 20 cigarettes by 10p and table wine by 40p a bottle. Duty is increased on television sets, records, cars and gaming machines. Page 5

Reagan victory a blow to rivals

Clean victories for President Carter and Mr Ronald Reagan in the New Hampshire primary were severe blows to their principal rivals, Senator Kennedy and Mr Bush, but both swore to continue the fight. Mr Kennedy expects to win next Tuesday's primary in Massachusetts. Page 7

Duty to aid refugee

The High Court ruled in a test case that the London Borough of Hillingdon had a duty to house an Ethiopian refugee and her son, aged eight. The council had refused to house her because she had no local connexion with any housing authority in Britain. Page 4

Mr Ram resigns

Mr Jagjivan Ram has resigned the leadership of the Jajati party amid continuing arguments within the top ranks of India's former ruling party. The crisis was precipitated by Mr Ram's refusal to consider an electoral alliance with the Lok Dal party led by Mr Charan Singh. Page 7

EEC-Israel dispute over Jerusalem

A diplomatic dispute has broken out between the Israeli Government and the EEC Commission over the international status of Jerusalem and its suitability as a site for the EEC's first office in Israel. As a result of the disagreement the EEC's decision last year to send its first ambassador to Israel has still not been implemented. Page 7

ISTC leaflet drive

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation is to saturate strike-bound steel-making areas with 200,000 leaflets urging workers to ignore or spoil British Steel Corporation ballot papers, which seek their views on a vote for the pay deal rejected by union leaders. Page 2

Libel acquittal

The authors and publishers of the paperback book, *Johnny Go Home*, were acquitted at the Central Criminal Court of a charge of criminal libel. The prosecution had been brought privately by Mr Roger Cleaves, aged 47, once known as the Bishop of Medway. Page 3

Hostages delay

A senior Iranian official said that parliament could not start discussing the release of the United States Embassy hostages before May. The panel investigating Iran's grievances against the deposed Shah were surrounded by demonstrators after visiting a cemetery where victims of the revolution were buried. Page 6

Paisley's plan: The Democratic Unionist Party says any future Northern Ireland cabinet should consist entirely of members of the majority party. Page 2

Heathrow "jungle": British members of the European Parliament described Heathrow airport as "an absolute jungle", and "my idea of hell", according to a survey. Page 4

The Queen Mary: The old queen of the Atlantic, which dropped anchor at Long Beach in 1967, may be destined for scrap heap. Page 7

Leader page 15
Letters: On the road to hyperinflation, from Mr Robin Wilson, and others; on British art, from Mr Douglas Cooper; on the new Hampshire election, from Mr David Wood on the Times Guide to the European Parliament. Page 9

Obituary: Dr George S. Parkis, Business News, pages 18-24
Stock markets: Equities started to move upward, again but gilts were dull. The FT index closed at 460.4, up 6.8.
Financial: Interest rate possibilities, disturbing pointers at BOC on the problems of splitting the Post Office. Page 10

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HOME NEWS

Steel unions launch leaflet drive urging strikers to ignore or spoil BSC 'ballot about a ballot'

By Paul Routledge and Donald MacIntyre

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) last night decided to saturate the strike-bound steelmaking areas with union leaflets calling on the union to prevent a "Yes" vote in the British Steel Corporation's "ballot about a ballot".

Union leaders ordered the printing of 200,000 copies of the ISTC handbill urging strikers to ignore the BSC ballot, or to spoil it by voting "No".

Workers who feel they must complete the ballot paper sent to their homes are asked to spoil them by writing the ISTC slogan "Pay the Steelworkers" across the voting space.

As disclosed in *The Times* yesterday, the dominant steel-making union wants to frustrate BSC's plan to win acceptance of its final 14.4 per cent pay and productivity offer by a two-stage vote of the men.

If they record a majority in favour of a ballot in the first round next week, the corporation would then move to a rank-and-file vote on the package so far rejected by union leaders.

In its leaflets the ISTC accuses British Steel top management of seeking to turn the ballot into a vote of confidence justifying their proposals for a smaller steel industry with 52,000 fewer workers.

The leaflet accuses Mr Scholey of being the chief architect of the rationalisation programme, and blames him as directly responsible for the nine weeks of hardship and suffering among steelworkers since the state industry closure began on January 2.

The strikers are reminded that they were not allowed a vote on the latest round of closure proposals, or on the shutting of works such as Ebbw Vale, East Works, Corby and Scunthorpe.

Mr Scholey said yesterday that he was "disappointed" by the union's response to the corporation's ballot. It still hoped that if the ballot recorded a vote in favour of another ballot on the offer itself, unions would take a hand in its organisation.

Mr Scholey said that he was now receiving about fifty letters a day, most of which were "written and well reasoned" arguments that the offer is a reasonable one under the circumstances and/or that there should be a ballot on it.

British Steel expects the Electrical Reform Society to have delivered voting papers to steelworkers' homes by early next week and for the returns to be completed by the next weekend.

Mr Scholey made clear that the corporation was hoping for a poll of "not less than 50 per cent" before deciding its next step. But he declined to say what kind of majority, if any, would put the corporation into carrying out a second ballot on the offer if the unions maintained their opposition.

He also refused to commit himself on the hypothetical possibility of what would happen if a substantial vote might be returned against having a ballot. "I would want more than 50 per cent voting and we would have 'yes' out of that," he told a press conference.

He made clear that he saw no possibility of an improvement in the present offer.

Mr Scholey repeated charges that the unions were unprepared to go to arbitration and added that he would not mind the offer being put before a full court of inquiry.

Tinned food companies restricting supplies

By Hugh Clayton

The largest tinned food companies in Britain reported for the first time yesterday that they were restricting supplies because of the steel strike. Bachelors, the largest maker of processed peas, said that it was working to a third of capacity. Crosse & Blackwell said that it had stopped making 6 lb tins of baked beans for use in canteens and that its three canning factories were at a longer running at full capacity.

"Bean supplies are very tight, and indeed we were unable to supply for a few days recently," the company said. "We have just about been able to keep pace on soup."

Heinz said it was restricting tinned food to the amount of tinned food they had ordered two years ago. Supermarket chains will thus be unable to use Heinz products to take the place of food they would normally buy from smaller companies.

No tinned food is reaching the 200 Co-operative retail societies from the Co-operative tinned food factory at Lowestoft, Suffolk, where 500 of the workforce of 700 were laid off last week.

Manufacture of baked beans and processed peas by Hartley and of some supermarket brands has ceased at a factory owned by Cadbury Schweppes at Monrovia, Tayside, where more than a hundred workers have been laid off.

Bachelors said that it had been asked to avoid its tin canning factory by sending the workers there to a factory producing other foods in Workop. Supplies of some products were now subject to delays, stocks of others were below normal, the company said.

Labour Party's moderates score victories

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

What no man could Mr James Callaghan to himself as he argued the "moderates" of Labour's National Executive Committee claimed several victories at yesterday's meeting in Manchester House.

Left-wing solidarity was tested early when Mr Tony Benn, MP for Liverpool, Walton, and Mr. A. J. Kinnock, MP for Cardiff, South Wales, were asked to support a resolution to get Mr. Lesley Hume, left-wing MP for Newcastle, elected to the committee investigating the party's future organisation.

Mr. Hume was a replacement for another left-winger, Mr. Alex. Kilgus, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, whose pro-Soviet line has been made public.

Mr. Hume was first countered by Mr. John Gilling, MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, a "moderate" who represents the Post Office, Engineering, Union of the Executive, and Michael Foot, leader of the party, Lady Jeger, as the replacement.

But Lady Jeger said she would not be available. She had plenty of work to do in the occupied.

The "moderates" fear that the left-wing line will be pushed through the party's radical reorganisation proposals, including a submission for restriction of MPs by local parties.

The left wing wanted to replace Mr. Hume with Mr. Clive Jenkins, of the Association of Scientific, Technical, and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS), a radical on most issues, does not favour compulsory restriction of MPs by local parties.

Mr. Hume's defeat was a victory for the left wing. Mr. Hume's defeat was a victory for the left wing.

Mr. Hume's defeat was a victory for the left wing.

Flying picket exchange plan to cover private companies

From Ronald Kershaw

Rotherham

A new national strategy for private sector picketing in the steel strike has been formulated after a secret meeting this week between strike organisers from Scotland, Wales, Yorkshire and Teesside. It is still in the early stages but plans involve the rapid exchange of flying pickets between all British areas and docks.

Calls by pay telephone or coded telegrams will be sent out for help at steelworks or docks. Mr Stanley Sheridan, South Yorkshire strike committee spokesman, said that even if it meant flying pickets travelling from Yorkshire as far as Wick, in Scotland, they would do.

Emphasis would be placed on stopping the movement of steel and raw materials rather than on preventing men entering plants that had resumed work against the instructions of their unions.

He said: "We feel certain that within two weeks the strike will begin to take a very serious turn. It is indicated that engineering companies that might use steel from resumed private sector works would be starved of the product."

Five steel pickets were arrested after picketing works of Templeborough Rolling Mills yesterday. The company, jointly owned by the private sector and the British Steel Corporation, resumed work on Monday in defiance of a strike call. The incident is regarded as the first manifestation of intensified picketing.

Mr Sheridan said the logistics of the new national picketing exercise would take a day or two to get going. There was no question but that action would be stepped up in South Yorkshire and throughout the rest of the country.

The British Steel Corporation's South Yorkshire and Humberside division disclosed yesterday that it was acting as agents for customers who were wishing to import steel, mainly from Europe. It was being done as a gesture of goodwill to BSC clients who were unable to obtain steel from the company with whom they wished to maintain contact.

Police ignored striking steelworkers in Bristol yesterday ignored a police request to stop mass secondary picketing. A Bristol correspondent writes: "More than 150 flying pickets from South Wales arrived in Bristol after agreeing last week to keep their numbers down to around 35. They picketed the private sector steelworks, Chiswick, and fighting broke out between police and pickets when a lorry driver insisted on going into the depot. A picket was arrested and charged with obstructing traffic."

Wales CBI to ask Sir Keith for tax concessions

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

The Wales CBI will ask the Government to give special concessions to industries in areas to be affected by the steel cuts in its members meet Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry, in two weeks.

It believes the Government will be more likely to consider concessions on company taxation than direct cash aid as a method of providing incentives for new employment in the area.

Mr Emrys Evans, the chairman, said that in addition it would be setting up an advisory service to help some of the 11,300 steelworkers who are to become redundant to start their own small businesses.

Mr Evans said his organisation objected to Wales being termed an industrial desert and took issue with Wales TUC forecasts that the steel rundown could lead to more than 50,000 job losses.

"Our research indicates that the figure will be no more than 30,000 and we shall be seeking Government aid to help us diversify from the primary industry of steel and coal. We shall be asking for Newport, Llanelli and Merthyr Talbot to be made special development areas to attract industrialists."

Unions in contest for BL convener

By Clifford Webb

Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Midlands officials of the two biggest unions in the country were trying last night to avert a clash over the election of the convener of BL's Longbridge plant to replace Mr Derek Robinson.

Only two men have held one of the most powerful trade union posts in the motor industry, Dick Etheridge and his retirement, Mr Robinson. Both are members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

But the Transport and General Workers' Union is claiming the right to continue to hold the office. It has pointed out that when Mr Etheridge was appointed more than thirty years ago, the engineering union had by far the largest membership in the plant. Since the National Union of Vehicle Builders merged with the IGWU eight years ago, the works committee at Longbridge comprises senior shop stewards and elects its chairman and second in command. Traditionally, the chairman is also the convener.

The committee is to meet on Monday evening to appoint the convener. The outstanding candidate is Mr James Adams, a transport union shop steward who has been committee secretary for several years. Like Mr Robinson, he is a member of the Communist Party, and is advocating disruptive action against the Edwardes plan.

His rival is another communist, Mr Victor Poulton, an engineering shop steward.

Last night officials of both unions were trying to play down the extent of the inter-union rivalry. Mr Adams, the IGWU's senior official in the Midlands, said: "I believe they should elect the best man for the job, and Jack Adams seems to be the outstanding candidate."

Mr William Jordan, the AUEW's Midlands divisional organizer, disagreed. He said: "My union takes the view that the convener's job at Longbridge is ours by long tradition and custom. Mr Robinson is taking place before Monday to try to resolve the issue."

Irish PAYE cut, but petrol, drinks go up

From Christopher Thomas

Dublin

Concessions for PAYE (tax) increases accompanied by stiff increases on petrol, cigarettes and alcohol were announced yesterday by Mr. Michael O'Kennedy, Ireland's Minister for Finance.

Mr. O'Kennedy's budget, which was introduced in the Dail, included a range of social welfare payments and pension increases, but also raised the standard rate of income tax from 10 to 12 per cent, and increased the rate on married couples from 10 to 12 per cent.

Mr. O'Kennedy's budget also included a range of social welfare payments and pension increases, but also raised the standard rate of income tax from 10 to 12 per cent, and increased the rate on married couples from 10 to 12 per cent.

Paisley plan for cabinet of one party

From Annabel Ferriman

Belfast

The Democratic Unionist Party, whose leader is the Rev Ian Paisley, revealed its proposals for the government of Northern Ireland yesterday in the constitutional talks at Stormont.

It proposed that any future government should be made up entirely of the majority party in an elected assembly, with no minority representatives in the cabinet, but that there should be a system of "backstop" party departmental committees which would advise on legislation and could call ministers to account.

Party representation on the executive would be determined by the results of the election. The proposals would be put to a referendum, according to the party's chief spokesman, Dr. James Watson, head of the party's public relations department.

Dr. Watson said that the proposals were a "bold step" towards a new system of government in Northern Ireland.

Pressure on Civil Service union for all-out strike

By Our Labour Staff

The leadership of the largest civil service union is trying to damp down attempts by left wingers to commit the union to an all-out strike if its pay demands are not met.

Militant sections of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), who work in government offices, have paid out security and unemployment benefits, want the union to change its policy of using selective strikes to back up pay demands.

There is a widespread feeling among civil service unions that the Government will set a cash limit for pay increases which will fall far short of the rises which the Pay Research Unit has said are necessary for civil servants to keep pace with industry in general.

It is understood that the Cabinet is to discuss the level at which the cash limit is to be set at its meeting today. Union leaders expect it to be about the same as the 14 per cent limit set for other public sector workers, while PRU reports suggest that civil servants are entitled to average increases of about 18 per cent.

In view of that likely short-fall industrial action in the Civil Service is being widely predicted and the 230,000-strong CPSA would be in the forefront of any action.

Mr Kenneth Thomas, union general secretary, writing in the latest issue of the union's journal, *Red Tape*, says: "My belief is that we have not yet squeezed the lemon of selectivity dry."

Pressure is coming from the union's membership in the Department of Health and Social Security and Department of Employment. Any decision to strike by these members would have an immediate effect on the payment of benefits.

Mr Thomas says another area of pressure is the fact that after last year's selective strikes by the union, the Government has been able to draw up contingency plans to minimize the effects of strikes this year. Last year the union's policy during an eight-week pay dispute was to take action which did not directly affect the public.

Last year's action cost the union £1.8m in strike pay—it is union policy to pay strikers their full net wage—and it has this year transferred £300,000 from its general fund to a fighting fund.

Mr Thomas urges that no hasty decisions should be taken at the union conference in May.

TUC seeks big response to day of action

Continued from page 1

brave trade unionists from all parts of Britain to a march that may exceed the 100,000-strong rally against the 1971 legislation.

Union leaders are unrepentant about the choice of a working day in mid-May for their second-stage protest.

Mr Murray says: "It is the basic democratic right. I hope many people will take time off and where appropriate will take the day off."

He demurred at suggestions that the TUC was actually mounting a one-day general strike. That question arose "for clarification" at the general council meeting, and Mr Murray reiterated that it was for individual union executives to decide what form of action they would take.

General guidance will be issued after the economic committee meeting on March 12. Action will include lunch-time meetings and work stoppages.

Hostage hoax nets armed raiders £395,000 haul

From Our Correspondent

Reading

Armed raiders escaped with £395,000 yesterday after a kidnapping hoax turned into a security van crew into an ambush.

It started in the morning when a letter arrived at a depot of Group 4 Total Security in Acton, west London, giving warning that the daughters of a wealthy family were being held hostage.

The crew of a security van scheduled to make collections at Bracknell, Berkshire, were given instructions in the letter to protect the van and ensure the safety of the two girls.

As the van drove along the A322 Basingstoke road, on the outskirts of Bracknell, the crew spotted a sign reading "Van", which they had been warned to watch out for. They turned off the road on to Forestry Commission land, drove about 50 yards along a track and halted by a Stop sign.

Four men emerged from a blue Ford Cortina, two of them carrying pistols, and the three-man crew were ordered to lie face down while the bugs containing £395,000 were unloaded.

The gang drove off in the Cortina, registration number DLN 437E, and headed for the Berkshire-Surrey border. Thames Valley and Surrey police are searching for the van throughout the area and a helicopter was called in to join the search, but the gang appeared to have eluded the dragnet.

Police took the kidnapping threat seriously and Des-Inspector Patrick Bridgeman, who led the raid, reported: "We have reason to fear they are threatening the children's lives." But it was later discovered that the guard's children were safe.

Det. Supt. Len Bradley, of Thames Valley police, the man leading the hunt for the gang, who were masked and wore balaclavas, described the raid as "very well planned."

When asked why the security crew had kept the rendezvous without getting in touch with the police he refused to comment.

Mr Gordon Phillips, Group 4 deputy managing director, said at the company's headquarters in Broadway, Worcestershire: "This is a hostage-type situation and in view of that we would rather not say anything because the safety of our employees and their families may be involved."

More special units to fight terrorism in Ulster

From Our Own Correspondent

Belfast

More units of Special Patrol Group units in Northern Ireland are to be increased to 100 to fight terrorism.

The five units in Belfast will be unchanged, but the four outside the city are to be reorganised and retrained and increased to ten, one for each division of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

They will be known as Divisional Mobile Support Units and will be trained to the same standard as the Special Patrol Groups. They will be engaged full time in the prevention and detection of serious crime and will be armed with rifles, sub-machineguns and pistols.

"Plans are well under way and over a period the result will be more police activity throughout Northern Ireland."

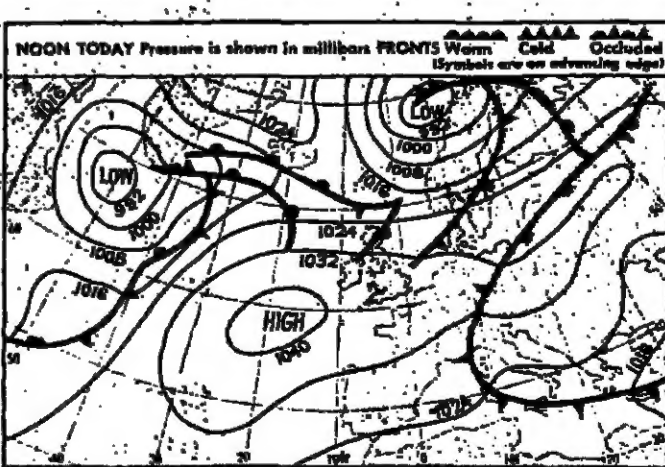
Mr Jack Hermon, the chief constable, announced that the changes were on the way in a speech two weeks ago when he said: "I am determined that the police will strive harder to put an end to terrorist crime."

"Significant plans are in progress. We will be more professional, more determined, and we will be more vigorous."

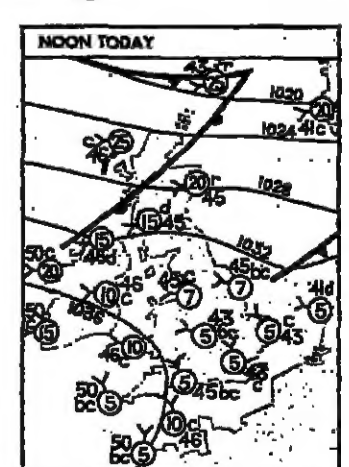
4-star Europa

The Europa hotel, in Belfast, damaged several times by IRA bombs, is among five hotels the RAC has added to its 4-star "luxury" rating.

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded
Sun rises: 6:50 am. Moon sets: 5:38 pm.
Sun rises: 6:50 am. Moon sets: 5:38 pm.
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IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL AUCTION
arranged at short notice
RARE & ANTIQUE ORIENTAL CARPETS
A collection of rare and antique oriental carpets from the Middle East, Persia, India, China, and Japan. The collection includes a large number of fine, old, and rare carpets, many of which are of exceptional quality and value. The auction will be held on Thursday, March 13, 1980, at 11.00 am, at the Hyde Park Hotel, London SW1. For more information, contact Rippon Boswell & Company, Ltd., 10, St. James's Place, London W1A 1DP. Telephone: 01-499 4444.

Bow Group calls for selection reforms
By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Conservative plans to toughen the selection procedures for prospective parliamentary candidates are being discussed by party officers and will be announced in May.

The discussions come at a time when the Tory Bow Group has weighed in with a hefty set of proposals designed to change the system, which they privately see as a "charter for extroverts".

Arguing for a radical change because the quality of Conservative MPs is threatened by outdated selection procedures, two interviews of about 20 minutes, one with the party's chief executive, Mr. John Gilling, and the second with a panel, is superficial.

Miss Ann Widdecombe, who chaired the Bow Group study, said yesterday that the group was seeking to improve the quality of candidates the quantity would have to be reduced. A party official agreed that it was the list was wended out.

The group argues that because of growing pressures on the system the sifting process needed to be more rigorous and streamlined.

Choosing Our Rulers (Bow Publications, 21).

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HOME NEWS

Jury clear authors of criminal libel over 'Johnny Go Home'

The authors and publishers of the paperback book, *Johnny Go Home*, were acquitted of criminal libel by a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The jury took an hour to decide that John Willis, Lord Willis's son, and Michael Deakin and the publishers, Quartet Books and Futura Publications, were not guilty of criminal libel.

Their trial has been described as one of the most unusual and rare cases to be heard at the Central Criminal Court. The trial judge, Mr Justice Croom, called for the reform of the criminal libel law because it was "wholly unfitted to modern times."

The prosecution had been brought privately by Mr Roger Gleaves, aged 47, once known as the "Ipswich boy," who claimed that he was now virtually unemployable and had been shunned because of some of the book's allegations against him.

Mr Justice Croom ordered that all the defence costs should be paid out of central funds. He refused to order that the costs should be borne by Mr Gleaves.

He said: "If Mr Gleaves had the money or any prospect of money, I would order him personally to pay the defence costs in full. But one has to have an eye to the practical side of things, and such an order would be quite useless here."

Mr Richard Rampton, for the defence, who applied for the

costs, said: "This prosecution has been a complete disgrace." The defendant had had to prove that every allegation in the book was correct, which had been an enormous expense.

He said the prosecution should never have been brought and the law of criminal libel should have been left in disuse.

As Mr Willis left the court he said: "I hope this will be the last prosecution against journalists for criminal libel and that the law will be changed as a result."

Mr Deakin said the trial had been "a jolly wearing" and estimated the costs of the defence at more than £50,000. They felt they had done a public service with the book.

The judge ordered that papers concerning evidence from one of the prosecuting witnesses, Mr Brian Stainer, should be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions to be considered for possible perjury.

Mr Justice Croom said Mr Stainer was one of two men with whom Mr Gleaves was charged with buggery in 1975. He added: "He gave evidence against Mr Gleaves at that trial. He was plainly believed by the jury, because Mr Gleaves was found guilty of buggery with both young men."

He then came to this court and gave evidence after a warning by me that the evidence he gave suggested he told lies on oath at the previous trial against Mr Gleaves."

Leading article, page 15

More funds for social care urged

By Ian Bradley

Although they have greatly increased in number and importance in recent years, voluntary organisations dealing with social and health care are still seen as marginal by the statutory services, according to the author of two studies on the subject published today.

Mr Stephen Hatch, head of the voluntary organisations research unit at the Policy Studies Institute, said at a meeting to launch the publications last Monday that only 1 per cent of the budget of local social service departments went to voluntary organisations. Yet they were often more cost-effective than statutory departments in the services they provided.

He said: "At present, the state is regarded as the centre of the caring universe. But all the evidence suggests that in fact the centre is the informal caring system provided by family, neighbours and voluntary bodies. The statutory system is often unproductive and there should be a different allocation of resources, with more public financing for the voluntary and informal sectors."

Mr Hatch's book, *Outside the State*, is a study of the work of voluntary organisations in three English towns. In the towns studied, 38 per cent of the voluntary organisations in existence in 1978 had been formed since 1971. The study also found that there had been an 8 per cent increase in organisations between 1975 and 1978. Many of the new organisations were mutual aid groups rather than traditional philanthropic bodies.

Mr Hatch has also edited a pamphlet, *Mutual Aid and Social Health Care*, which is the first publication of the newly formed Association of Researchers in Voluntary Action and Community Involvement. The association, which has just appointed a part-time general secretary, has about a hundred members, most of whom are academics working in universities and polytechnics.

The pamphlet focuses on the work of mutual aid groups, Gingerbread (for one-parent families) and Alcoholics Anonymous, and also looks at self-help in both mental health and conventional health care. (*Outside the State* (Croom Helm, £7.95).

Mutual Aid and Social and Health Care (Bedford Square Press, £1.95).

Census forms unlikely to include race question

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Unless there is a last minute change of heart, it looks as if the Government will not include a question on a person's race or ethnic group in the 1981 census, as it has failed.

A decision must be announced soon if the census is to be taken. If the Government goes ahead without a question on race, it will mean it has accepted advice from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, but rejected arguments of the Commission for Racial Equality.

Its chairman, Mr David Lane, has strongly advocated the inclusion of the ethnic question. He says information about

ethnic groups must be as thorough and up-to-date as possible if policies are to be properly shaped to meet needs of various groups, including ethnic minorities.

The OPCS ran a test in Haringey, London. Figures for the test as a whole (not just the racial question) showed that completed forms were returned by only 54 per cent of households.

The original proposals to count non-white people in the 1981 census represented a significant change in British official attitude towards race relations. If the question were to be asked, it would be the first time a decision had been taken to count people in a census by race or as being ethnically different.

Footballer injured

Sammy Irvine, Stoke City Football Club's midfielder player, was taken to North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary with serious head and facial injuries after his car hit a tree near Newcastle-under-Lyme on Tuesday night. His condition yesterday was described as "fair".

Purse thief jailed

A woman who stole a purse containing 50p at a hotel was jailed for eight months at Marlborough Street Court yesterday. Mrs Nicola, aged 26, of Winstanley, London, admitted stealing the purse. She had two previous convictions.

Farm animal protest rejected by minister

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

The Government has rejected appeals to 'strip' farmers and traders of voting rights on its Farm Animal Welfare Council. Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has decided that complaints about the council from animal welfare campaigners are unjustified.

Leading members of the governing council of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have asked him to make the government body more acceptable to welfare campaigners.

A group on the RSPCA council led by Mr Richard Ryder, a former chairman of the society, wants all members of the government body who are not welfare campaigners to lose their voting rights.

That would mean that only a minority of the 26 members of the body, who are not connected with farming, meat science or the veterinary profession would be allowed to vote. The Farm Animal Welfare Council advises ministers about the need for changes in the law governing the welfare of animals on farms, at markets, in slaughterhouses and in transit.

Mr Ryder said that the change in voting rights would enable the RSPCA council to reconsider its decision not to allow two senior officers of the society to join the government body. The decision has highlighted the division between traditionalists and activists.



Almost a millionaire: Mr David Preston, a Stoke-on-Trent brewery worker, and his wife, Joan, apparently not too distressed yesterday that he had not quite managed to win £1m on the football pools. Mr Preston, aged 46, of Forest Road, Burton-on-Trent, had just been handed a cheque for £804,573.35p from Littlewoods Pools at the Grosvenor House hotel, London. A cheque for £149,300.75p was on its way to his home from Vernons Pools, making a record pools total of £953,874.10p.

Group to advise on health decisions

By Our Health Services Correspondent

An advisory group is to be set up to help in reaching important decisions about the future of health services in London. Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health, disclosed yesterday.

Announcing the decision to the Commons committee debating the Health Services Bill, Dr Vaughan said that there were a number of difficult decisions to be taken on London University and London Health Planning Consortium reports on medical schools and bed provision, as well as other reports affecting health care in London.

Coordination between many interests was necessary if the right answers were to be found. The terms of reference and membership of the group would be announced shortly.

Flight computer 'could save £200m in fuel'

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

British aviation will spend about £1,000m on fuel this year, but the use of a new flight planning system could save up to £200m of that, it was claimed in London yesterday.

The system is based at Horley, Surrey, just outside Gatwick, the second London airport. It is linked to a computer in California which works out in a matter of seconds the most fuel-efficient route for any type of aircraft to fly between any points in the world.

The computer is programmed with details of the performance of 150 jet and turbo-prop aircraft, both military and civil, the airways routes between thousands of towns and cities throughout the world, and areas through which flying is prohibited for reasons of security.

Four times in each 24 hours weather data contained in the computer is brought up to date from reports fed to it from United States meteorological satellites stationed high above the earth.

Using that information, the computer can warn pilots if they are likely to meet turbulence on the flight, how intense the turbulence will be, and at what point on the route it will be encountered.

Many of the world's principal airlines already use their computers for flight planning, but the companies behind the new system, Memrykord Ltd, of Horley, and Lockheed Jetplan, in the United States, are confident that it will produce

bigger fuel savings than the airlines are able to make at present.

Asked to produce a fuel-efficient route between Paris and New York, for instance, their system will offer a choice of 10 different tracks, far more than airlines consider, they claim.

A number of British air operators are trying the system out. One of them, operating wide-bodied airliners to the west coast of the United States, has saved one hour and 36 minutes, and therefore a great amount of fuel, on the journey.

The cost for an individual flight plan is about £21, but a programme of plans is much cheaper.

A medium sized airline based in the United States was already saving £400,000 a year by using the system, executives of Memrykord and Jetplan said. In a test period lasting 12 months in the United States, airlines, business aircraft owners and the military had saved more than £1m, equivalent to 4.5 million gallons of aviation fuel.

The United States Navy was saving up to £30 an hour on its long-range, anti-submarine reconnaissance aircraft flights with the P3 Orion aircraft.

Captain B. G. Cramp, chairman and joint managing director of Memrykord, said yesterday: "We are ready to state the Americans for their gas-guzzling cars, but they are exceedingly tied to saving aviation fuel."

"Here in Europe we are only just getting to grips with this problem."

"I'VE BEEN NURSING OUR BOILER MAN AND BOY FOR THIRTY YEARS"

It's a proud achievement—or is it? However well-tended a 30-year-old boiler may be, it can still be made to perform more efficiently. Ask yourself just how much an out-of-date boiler system could be costing you.

A boilerhouse log should be kept to check consumption against operating conditions.

Correct use of portable instrumentation, such as a flue gas analyser, will help you monitor combustion efficiency.

Your boiler manufacturer can advise you on the benefits of automatic controls.

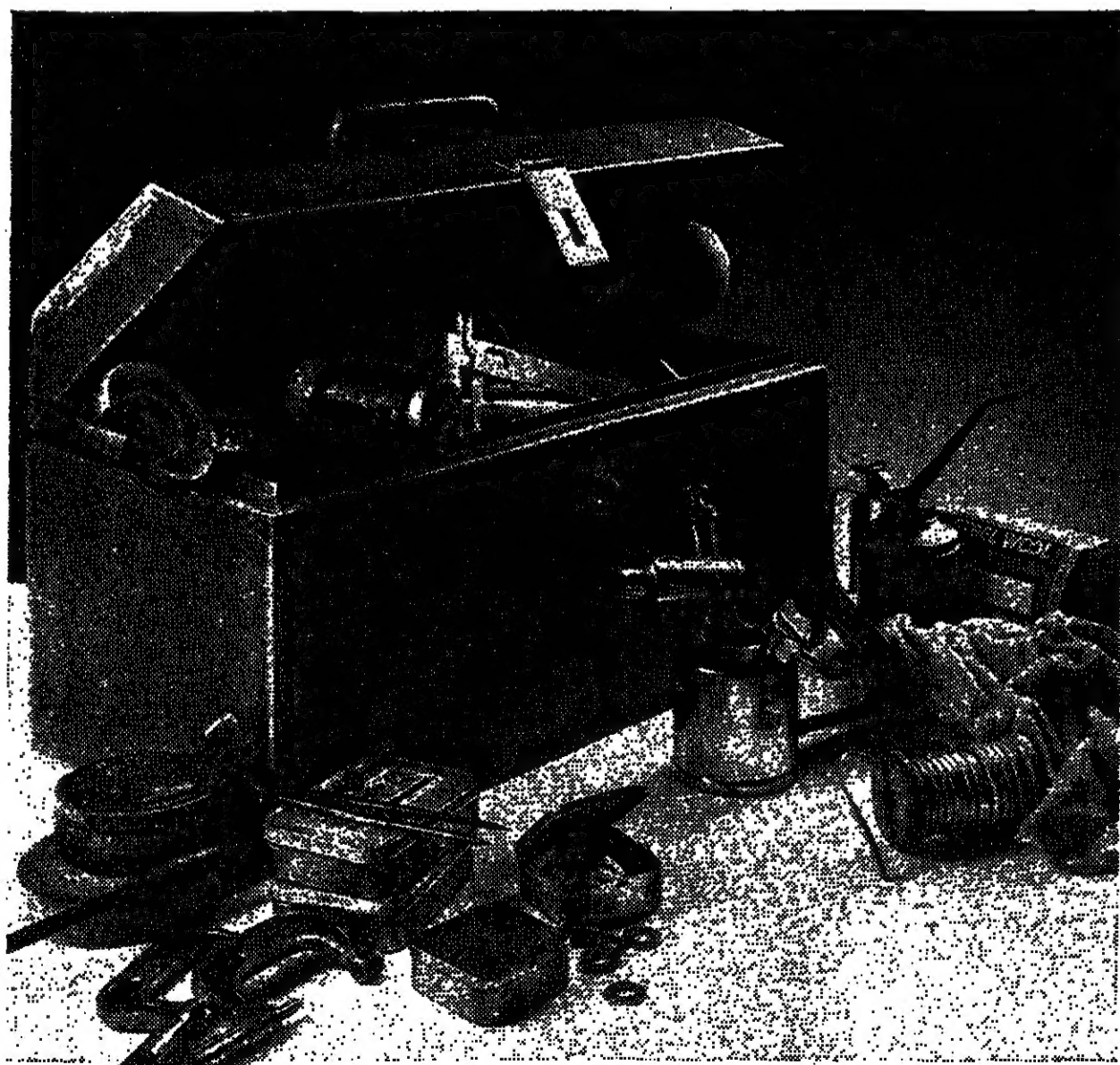
In short, good housekeeping practices, staff training, and the use of modern controls will save you money in the boilerhouse.

You can start by filling in the coupon right away.

We'll send you details of the Energy Survey Scheme run by the Department of Energy. Through this scheme a consultant will give you advice on your boilerhouse and on the overall energy efficiency of your factory or office.

We'll also send details of the Department of Industry's Energy Conservation Scheme, under which you may qualify for a 25% grant towards replacing or modernising your boiler plant.

Hundreds of companies are making



real cost savings. Many started by making use of the help available under these two schemes.

So if you think there's a chance your old boiler is losing the fire in its belly—fill in the coupon.

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Please send me details of (tick box):
Energy Survey Scheme ☐ Energy Conservation Scheme ☐
Name: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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HOME NEWS

Council may appeal against High Court ruling that it has a duty to house Ethiopian refugee

By Nicholas Timmins
The London Borough of Hillingdon lost an important case yesterday that it did have a duty to house an Ethiopian refugee and her son aged eight.

Hillingdon council had refused to house Mrs Sophie Streeting, aged 24, under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, 1977, because she did not have a local connection with any housing authority in Britain.

Mr Justice Griffiths, sitting with Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, said Mrs Streeting was in the country legally and he was wholly unimpressed that words should be read into the Act limiting its application to those with local connections.

He added: "In my view a homeless person includes a person who has no local connection with a housing authority. I reach that conclusion with satisfaction, because if anyone needed the aid of this Act, it is this young woman and her child, homeless refugees in a strange country."

Mr John Watts, leader of Hillingdon council, said after the judgment that the council would be asking the Government to change the law to remove from it the burden of housing families who arrive homeless at Heathrow airport.

The council is also considering an appeal. Mr Watts added: "Our contention is that it is unreasonable for any local authority to have imposed on it responsibility for housing people who have no connection with the area."

"Central government should not allow people into this country without first making adequate provision for their

accommodation. It should not be a burden on the ratepayers of Hillingdon simply because we have Heathrow airport in our boundaries."

He said that the council had about 35 "airport families" in temporary accommodation. Next year's budget had provision for an extra £125,000 for bed and breakfast accommodation, largely for such families, at a time when £6m was being cut from expenditure to keep the rates down. The council had had to house 250 families in the past four years and was spending about £3,500 a week on bed and breakfast accommodation. It was "an intolerable burden on our ratepayers".

The decision was, however, welcomed by Mr Ian Martin, general secretary of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. He said Hillingdon had behaved irresponsibly in using the victims of circumstances to publicize its difficulty.

There was an area of argument about who should fund the housing of the small minority of immigrants who arrived without the means to support themselves. Central government had not been prepared to accept virtually any responsibility for that, with the exception of the Ugandan Asians. What was needed was a sensible set of arrangements between local and central government over the financial responsibility.

Mr Justice Griffiths said he sympathized with local authorities such as Hillingdon which were near ports and airports. It was not fair to place the burden on them by the Act. But immigration controls would prevent an influx of all and sundry into the country.

It would only be in occasional cases, such as the present case, when people arrived in need of the Act's help.

Mrs Streeting came to Britain last year from Greece for the funeral of Mr Alan Streeting, an engineer who had been working in Libya and with whom she had been living. She was put up in an hotel by her husband's employers over the period of the funeral, but applied to Hillingdon for housing under the Act in June. Since then she has been maintained in bed and breakfast accommodation by the council at a cost of about £2,000.

She was refused re-entry by Greece, and was unable to return to her native Ethiopia, and in November last year was granted refugee status by the Home Office. She said after yesterday's judgment that she was very happy and hoped she would be given a flat. She hoped to find work in a factory.

Mr Terence Dicks, chairman of Hillingdon housing committee, said that the judgment did not mean that "as from tomorrow she will be given a nice two-bedroom council house. You can forget that idea."

The council was meeting its legal obligation by putting a roof over her head. He added: "She will be considered for permanent housing along with everyone else. She will be given no priority as a result of today's action."

The council has a waiting list of just under 2,000, with 70 to 80 families in bed and breakfast accommodation. Law Report, page 12



J. B. Priestley, OM (left) with George Coppard, author of "With a Machine Gun to Cambrai", at a reception yesterday to launch the hard back edition of the book. Right: Field Marshal Lord Harding of Petherton with Vickers Mk1.

Businessmen can sue over tax amnesty

Small businessmen angered by the tax amnesty granted to Fleet Street's 6,000 annual printing workers won the right in the Court of Appeal yesterday to sue the Inland Revenue over what they regard as an illegal and unfair decision.

The court ruled by a two-to-one majority that the 50,000-strong National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses had a sufficient interest in the case to entitle it to bring proceedings.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said the Revenue claimed that no one had any legal standing to go to court and challenge its actions. He ruled that it was open to a representative body of taxpayers to complain to the courts and seek a declaration as to the rights or wrongs of the matter.

The Revenue, said to be losing £1m a year through tax evasion by the printing workers, had declared a pre-April amnesty in 1977 in the hope that a new tax collection system could be introduced by general agreement rather than against a background of opposition.

Some casual workers were said to be defrauding the taxman by signing for pay packets with names such as "Mick Mouse of Sunset Boulevard" and "Sir Gordon Richards of Tottenham Corner". Yesterday's ruling that the federation has a right to challenge the legality of the amnesty is to go to the House of Lords for an appeal by the Revenue.

Lord Denning and Lord Justice Ackner allowed the federation's appeal against a High Court decision that it was not entitled to bring proceedings against the Revenue. Lord Justice Lawton dissented. Law Report, page 12

NF asks to speak on public order

By Ian Bradley
The National Front has asked to be called to give evidence to a parliamentary committee examining the working of the Public Order Act, 1936.

Mr Martin Webster, the NF's national activities organizer, wrote on Tuesday to Mr Roger Willoughby, clerk to the House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs.

In his letter he said: "We are surprised and disturbed that the committee has not so far seen fit to invite the National Front to appear before it to submit evidence and proposals for the amendment of the law in the interests of public order."

Mr Webster's letter points out that much of the press and

public discussion on public order in relation to political demonstrations has centred on events that have taken place before, during and after marches and demonstrations held by the National Front.

The letter also notes that "the committee has invited evidence and comment and proposals for the amendment of the law not only from police authorities but from bodies like the Commission for Racial Equality and other 'politically partisan' bodies."

Mr Willoughby said yesterday that any interested body was welcome to submit written evidence to the committee. On the basis of that evidence the committee would decide if it

wanted to examine particular witnesses orally.

He said that the committee had so far taken evidence from the Home Office, the Police Federation, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Metropolitan Police and the Commission for Racial Equality. It was also planning to hear evidence from the Local Authorities Association and the National Council for Civil Liberties.

Mr Willoughby said that he thought it likely that the committee would want to hear evidence from other interested groups and that it would probably continue its deliberations on the Public Order Act until Whitson.

Festival to take over York Minster for a day in June

By Martin Huckerby
Theatre Reporter

As part of the York Festival and Mystery Plays, the whole of York Minster will be taken over on June 14 for a day of secular entertainments, with singing, dancing, tumblers, fencers and children's games in the aisles.

The festival is staging a medieval spectacular, preceded by a reenactment of the entry into York in 1483 of Richard III. All seats in the minster will be cleared and throughout the day there will be a variety of events on the times of those common to medieval fairs.

Local people dressed in appropriate costume will provide instrumental music, drama, singing and dancing, and craftsmen will be at work on different stalls displaying but not selling medieval wares.

Acrobats, jugglers and other entertainers will perform in the aisles, and the Court of the Minster will be taken over by thieves and vagabonds being arraigned. The organizers of the festival said that the minster's Dean and Chapter had support.

Given the project their full More medieval entertainment

Settlement of £250 over boy's caning

By Our Education Correspondent

A builder has won a £250 out-of-court settlement and £300 towards legal costs from an independent school which he claimed had administered excessive corporal punishment to his son, causing him serious physical injury.

Mr Reginald Wilmut said that his son Jonathan, now aged 15, was unable to sit down for a couple of days and unable to lie on his back for a week after he had been given two strokes of a cane just over a year ago by the deputy headmaster of Harrow High School, in the London Borough of Harrow.

Mr Wilmut plans to take the matter up with his local MP, Mr Rhodes Boyson, Under-Secretary of State for Education. He said he had taken his son away from the school immediately after the caning. The school had sued him for one term's fees, then £210, but had later dropped the claim, he said.

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Damages for journalist and publishers

By Our Education Correspondent

The publishers of *The Sun* and a journalist, Mr Harry Arnold, yesterday accepted undisclosed damages and legal costs in settlement of a High Court action in London over a motor magazine article.

News Group Newspapers had sued Haysmarket Publishing Ltd and Mr Quentin Spurring, publishers and editor of *Autosport*, alleging libel.

The group's counsel, Mr Charles Gray, told Mr Justice O'Connor that in September, 1978, *Autosport* had published a report by Mr Arnold in *The Sun* on the death of the racing driver, Ronald Peterson, in the 1978 Italian Grand Prix.

Mr Arnold had questioned the safety of the track at Monza, and recalled that many drivers had died in Formula 1 racing in recent years. *Autosport* stated that the article, written in a "gleeful" manner, was an example of the "calumnious methods used by *The Sun* to gain readers."

Suggesting that Mr Arnold had distorted the facts about a Spanish Grand Prix accident in 1975, *Autosport* called on readers to treat *The Sun* with contempt.

Mr Gray said the article was a serious libel on Mr Arnold's professional reputation and was equally defamatory of the publishers of *The Sun*.

Mr Geoffrey Shaw, for the defendants, accepted that the criticisms were unwarranted, and apologized.

The judge agreed to the record of the action being withdrawn.



Mr Berry and Mrs Ward after the hearing.

Flemish oak cabinet sold for world record £33,000

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A world auction record price for a piece of oak furniture was set in the town hall at Clare, Suffolk, yesterday when a seventeenth-century carved Flemish cabinet made of oak was sold for £33,000.

The top price previously paid was £17,000 for a Flemish oak cupboard at Christie's a year ago.

The sale was held by Boardman Fine Art, the Suffolk auctioneers, who specialize in oak. The piece had been bequeathed to Girton College, Cambridge, and sent by them for sale.

It is a relatively small cabinet, measuring 74 in by 56 in, with a small, two-door cupboard above a larger two-door chest of drawers.

It is elaborately and finely carved. The whole is surmounted with a frieze of birds eating grapes; the upper cupboard is flanked by caryatids and centred by a third and the doors are carved with religious scenes. Each of the doors of the lower cupboard is divided into two curved panels.

The auctioneers expected it to top the £10,000 mark. There were several bidders around that price, they were determined to get it for £33,000. It was bought by Mr Paolo Brignotti, a dealer in Westbourne Park, London.

In Paris yesterday art works from the Far East reached the top price, when a Japanese wood sculpture dating from the thirteenth or fourteenth century, with traces of the original lacquer, red and brown, made 245,000 francs (estimate 15,000-20,000 francs) or £26,000.

Custody death figures 'jiggery-pokery'

By Peter Marshall
Commissioner of Police for the City of London, has accused Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham, West, of "statistical jiggery-pokery."

As reported in The Times, Mr Meacher claimed last week-end that there had been 10.5 deaths in police custody per 10,000 arrests in the City of London from 1970 to 1979.

Mr Marshall said yesterday: "These statistics leave me bewildered. The facts are that during the period 1970-1979 there were two deaths in police custody in the City of London."

"There were inquests on both and in neither case was any question of police propriety raised. Over the same period there were 19,072 arrests."

Complaint over 'Dino' headline rejected

Information available at the time of publication supported a Daily Mail headline, "Dino jiggery-pokery," the Press Council says in an adjudication today. It rejected a complaint that the headline was not supported by the news report.

The council noted that when an arrest was made the headline and report were substantially altered.

The front-page report said that after a £1,300 post office robbery police were hunting a youth answering the description of "Dino Dine" (Dresser Babouris), who had £450 from an earlier robbery.

Mr R. Adams, of Main Road, Sidcup, Kent, protested to the editor that it gave no evidence supporting the headline and no report that the youth had been convicted of robbing the post office. A person was deemed

The 'jungle hell' of Heathrow airport

Scathing comments by British members of the European Parliament that Heathrow airport, London, is "an absolute jungle" and "my idea of hell" brought a strong reply last night from the British Airports Authority.

The MPs were reported to have made their comments in a survey of reactions by passengers using Heathrow frequently by a company offering to conduct travellers through the airport.

Mr Derek Enright, European MP for Leeds, described Heathrow as a jungle and added: "I use it as little as possible. The domestic lounges are grossly overcrowded. The staff are not to blame. They cope extremely well with abominable conditions. It must be an awful atmosphere to work in."

Mr Christopher Jackson, European MP for Kent, East, said: "Heathrow approaches me to my idea of hell. I am always in a rush when I use it and find the long walks down interminable corridors absolutely frightful."

MPs from the British Parliament interviewed in the survey called for "special ways of passing the scrum."

Not all of those interviewed were critical of the airport, which the airports authority admits becomes "a bit of a peak period" so that the number of people passing through the long-distance terminal building has to be limited. Some said that they thought improvements were solving traffic flow difficulties.

The airports authority asked last night: "How can we pin down and provide answers to these allegations unless we know specifically what anyone is talking about? Certainly, nobody would voluntarily undergo such a checking in and security checks."

"If you really want to bypass the scrum, do not come to Heathrow at busy hours, particularly weekends in summer, or use Gatwick airport instead."

Man accused of drugs aid to ex-club owner

A man has appeared in court in the Republic of Ireland on drugs charges involving James Humphreys, the former Sobho club owner.

The court hearing late on Tuesday night came after the Dublin police last December of almost £1m of drugs and drug-making equipment in the village of Limerick.

At a special court in the village of Limerick, Donal Ryan, aged 29, of Knock, was accused of aiding and abetting James Humphreys and Michael Reginald Ridgley to produce controlled drugs.

The offence was alleged to have been committed between September 1977 and December, 1979, in Knocking and other places in the Irish Republic.

Mr Ryan was remanded on bail to appear at Assizes in District Court, Co Limerick, today.

Guernsey homes debate deferred

Guernsey MPs last night agreed to adjourn until March 12 their debate on the proposed law to control the occupation of housing, because 21 amendments have been tabled.

Mr Roydon Falls, president of the Guernsey Housing Authority, had said that without continued control "there might be such an influx of people that all the available houses and building land would be swallowed up."

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Oil terminal search for bomb

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

Bomb disposal specialists from the Royal Naval dockyard at Rosyth were on the way to Sullom Voe, Shetland, last night to investigate reports that a wartime explosive might be lying on the seabed near the oil terminal.

Lieutenant-Commander John Belchamber, mine clearance officer, said that a flying boat sank during the war with a load of four 250lb bombs. The site is close to the channel used by oil tankers sailing to and from the terminal.

The possibility that explosives could be lying near the terminal was raised by Mr John Nankivell, aged 60, of Kildermaster, who was a member of 201 Flying Boat Squadron, based at Sullom Voe during the war.

He wrote to British Petroleum, operator of the terminal, recalling how he dived into the sea to escape when his Saunders Roe aircraft caught fire at her moorings and sank. The aircraft had been armed with four bombs.

Squadron records confirmed the sinking of the aircraft, but did not mention the explosives. A further search of the records is being made.

Naval divers are studying photographs taken during the war by German reconnaissance aircraft showing the flying boats at their moorings. Mr Nankivell has been asked to mark on a chart the spot where he dived into the sea.

When fully developed Sullom Voe will handle 1,000 tanker tonnage and 60 million tonnes of North Sea oil a year.

'Superstar' run ending

Jesus Christ Superstar, the longest-running musical in British theatre history, is to end its Theatre on August 23 after its 3,357th performance. It opened on August 9, 1972.

Bill to end ban on a marriage

By David Nicholson-Lord

The breach wrought in the Biblical authority of Leviticus by contemporary morality was widened a little further yesterday when a private member's bill to end the ban on a marriage between a man and a woman was introduced in the House of Commons.

In a hearing lasting less than half an hour a House of Lords committee, led by Lord Edward Berry and Mrs Doris Ward, aged 57, leave to introduce a personal Bill which not only sets aside the teachings of Leviticus on the prohibited degrees of marriage but, perhaps more significant, seeks to amend their modern derivative, existing British statute law.

The benefits will be theirs alone, however. The measure is grandly titled the Edward Berry and Doris Ward Marriage (Enabling) Bill. Even if it receives the Royal Assent, other couples in a similar position will still have to make an application to the Lords Personal Bills Committee.

The Bill's only predecessor was rejected by the Lords in 1947, but after yesterday's hearing Mr Berry remained unimpressed by the prospect of making legal history. "That was the last thing in our minds," he said. "We had no idea anyone would be interested."

He added: "We decided we would like to get married only about nine months ago. It seemed a straightforward matter. Then we began to realize all the problems."

Mr Berry said the Table of Kindred and Affinity, which states that a man may not marry his wife's daughter.

The couple's complicated relationship arose after Mr Berry married Mrs Ward's widowed mother and assumed responsibility for her young children, but not Mrs Ward. Both Mrs Ward's husband and Mrs Berry subsequently died, the latter in 1977. There is no blood relationship.

Call for newspapers supporting Labour

The Labour Party and the TUC are being urged to join in moves to launch more newspapers supporting the Labour movement.

Call for newspapers supporting Labour

The Labour Party and the TUC are being urged to join in moves to launch more newspapers supporting the Labour movement.

The Campaign for Press Freedom has written to Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, and Mr Ronald Hayward, the Labour Party general secretary, urging them to proceed with a joint feasibility study in a new national daily newspaper.

They should also encourage support for new provincial newspapers, it said.

A new national daily newspaper would benefit society by adding to the national dialogue

on industrial and economic affairs and by helping to achieve a more balanced media debate," the campaign told the two general secretaries.

It would be expensive to launch a new newspaper, but newspapers would be cheaper to launch and run and were normally more profitable in terms of capital investment.

A national daily newspaper must aim to become financially self-supporting, as "the movement could not afford long-term subsidies, and a loss-making venture could be a serious setback to our aim."

The campaign, which is helping with the forthcoming launching of the East End News, a local weekly newspaper in east London, suggested that a launching or development fund for new and existing newspapers sympathetic to the movement should be set up.

Call for newspapers supporting Labour

The Labour Party and the TUC are being urged to join in moves to launch more newspapers supporting the Labour movement.

WEST EUROPE

Whisky producers expect bigger sales as EEC court rules against unequal taxes on spirits

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 27

Scottish whisky producers are hoping for a big expansion of their sales on the continent after the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg today found France, Italy, Denmark and Ireland guilty of illegal tax discrimination against imported spirits.

Colonel H. F. O. Bewsher, the director general of the Scotch Whisky Association, said: "The verdicts underline the long standing and blatant discrimination which Scotch whisky has encountered in these important continental markets."

The association was expecting the governments concerned to accept the court's rulings and to take the earliest opportunity to amend their taxation systems so that Scotch whisky is taxed on the same basis as all other spirits.

These four countries account for almost 12 per cent of our total exports. France and Italy are the third and fourth largest overseas markets for Scotch whisky, but in each country we have only a small share of the spirits market and there is much scope for improvement."

The court was unable to make up its mind in a fifth case in which Britain was accused by the European Commission of affording "indirect protection" to beer by taxing wine five times more heavily.

Although the court's nine judges dismissed a British plea that wine and beer could not be considered competitive, they were not convinced by the Commission's contention that the difference in tax had prevented more people from drinking wine than would otherwise have been the case.

Both Britain and the Commission were instructed by the court to re-examine their arguments in the light of today's provisional ruling and to report back to the judges before the end of the year. The court will then pronounce the final verdict.

The court's rulings were seen here as an important filip for the Commission's seven-year campaign to harmonize the level of EEC excise duties on wine, beer and spirits by taxing them according to alcohol content. The aim would be to promote free trade.

France charges a higher rate of tax on cereal-based spirits like whisky than on wine-based ones such as brandy. For example, the tax on a bottle of Scotch is about 11 higher than on a similar bottle of cognac.

In Italy the local grappa is taxed about 60p less than an equivalent bottle of whisky, while in Denmark a bottle of aquavit attracts 2.75 less in tax than a similar quantity of Scotch.

The Irish were found to be in breach of Rome Treaty rules because they allow the

payment of excise duty on home-produced spirits to be delayed, but not on imported spirits.

Innocent readers may ask why, in a customs union, there should be any taxes on trade in spirits at all. The answer is that while customs duties have been abolished, member states still impose internal taxes such as excise duties and value added tax, at widely differing rates. In practice their effect is indistinguishable from import duties.

Ronald Faux writes from Edinburgh: *Après le mouton, le whisky.* Thus might emerge the next intransigent stand by France after the European court's decision.

It is thought likely that having made a stand on behalf of home-distilled interests, the erring governments will gracefully allow fair competition with imported products. Scotch whisky in particular. The most likely rebel is France which last year imported £48.6m worth of Scotch with many indications that the drink would be even more popular if the duty was not so high.

The French argue that more rigorous rules apply to the production of cognac. The fear of competition may encourage the French Government to follow the precedent set by lamb imports, and ignore the court's decision. This ruling imposes only a moral pressure on the condemned country to comply and change its laws.

Three years of church occupation celebrated

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 27

It is three years ago today since the French disciples of Mgr. Marcel Lefebvre, the former Archbishop of Dakar and founder of the traditionalist seminary of Ecône in Switzerland, took over the church of St Nicolas du Chardonnet, in the Latin Quarter.

Since then Mass has regularly been celebrated there according to the pre-conciliar ritual of Pope Pius V, before a large and devout congregation from all parts of Paris and beyond. Mgr Lefebvre himself has come on several occasions to give confirmation to hundreds of children, in spite of the sentence of suspension pronounced against him by Pope Paul VI, and of the protests of the regular clergy and of the majority of the resident parishioners.

They have protested on more than one occasion against the occupation of their church. The Archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Marty, tried to find a compromise solution and offered the traditionalists a disused church on the Paris ring motorway. A mediator, Professor Jean Guittion, the eminent academician, was appointed to seek a way out of the deadlock, but gave up in despair.

The courts ordered the restoration of the occupied church to its lawful tenants (under the Law of Separation of 1905, the building is the property of the state). But it was all to no avail. The traditionalists refused to leave and the Paris authorities were unwilling to stir up a hornet's nest by using the police to enforce the court's decision.

The occupation of the church continues, and the third anniversary was celebrated last Sunday by a solemn High Mass. But much of the heat has gone out of the affair, partly because of the passage of time—for both sides, the occupation of St Nicolas has become an established fact and not a legal fact—and particularly because of the change in the whole atmosphere in the Catholic Church in France since the election of the "conservative" Pope John Paul II.

The emphasis has turned from innovation and the ideas of the left-wing clergy, to orthodoxy and the sanctions against theologians with advanced ideas, some of them French, who have been condemned by the Vatican. Mgr Durand-Bourget, aged 83, a former chaplain of the Order of Malta, and the moving spirit in the occupation of the church has adopted a deliberately low key.

"All we ask now is that we should be left in peace", he said a few days ago. "It is a question of common sense and reason, for no decision of the Church forbids the use of the rite of Pius V", he added. "At first we were treated like dirt, like an obsolete old creature who was about to die. But the old creature has had grandchildren who are growing up."

The parishioners of St Nicolas have the church of St Severin near by for their devotions. But the Abbey Bellego, the vicar of the parish, continues to say Mass in a school building close by, to assert his undiminished right to his church and in protest against the established fact of the occupation, which, he says, does not in any way legitimize it.

There matters stand, and are likely to go on for a long time to come, for the solution lies in Rome, between the Pope and Mgr Lefebvre, and not in Paris.



Is the world playing games with South Africa?

While the dispute rages over the Moscow Olympics, no one suggests that Soviet athletes should be penalised. They have competed freely (and rightly) at the Winter Olympics, and will not be cold-shouldered at future meetings elsewhere.

However, with South Africa it is the athletes themselves who are denied by the International Olympic Committee's boycott the ultimate goal of competing internationally.

Why? Because it is alleged that South African racial policies deny equal opportunities to black athletes.

Today, this is quite simply untrue. The controlling bodies of sport in South Africa are autonomous.

Their constitutions are non-racial, and no barriers of a racial or other nature are imposed by the government. No laws deny the black player the opportunities of the white.

The sceptic may say: so what? The plain answer is that in nine months of 1978, 2,615 mixed sporting events took place, including 44 at international level. Since then, mixed sport has become so commonplace that statistics do not merit keeping.

South African athletes are being ostracised for political reasons, while the sportsmen of many other nations whose regimes and policies could be open to censure are free to compete internationally. Is this playing the game?

Issued by the Information Service, South African Embassy, London.



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Ministers prepare for showdown on EEC cash

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Senior ministers are clearly bracing themselves for a showdown with Britain's EEC partners over the Government's determination to achieve a big reduction in this country's net payment of more than £1,000m to the Community budget.

It is hoped that a solution will be found at the next summit meeting of heads of government on March 31 and April 1. Daily, however, the language becomes harder, and there has been a significant change in the British attitude since the humiliating retreat in Dublin in early December.

On Monday, in her *Panorama* interview, Mrs Thatcher mentioned the possibility of obstruction and of withholding some of the contributions that Britain made to the EEC if the deficit was not reduced. She added that that would go against Community law and would be considered only after all other matters were considered.

But yesterday Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal and spokesman on foreign affairs in the Commons, seemed to be hardening up the threat of retaliatory action. Asked what the Government would do if it did not get the desired reduction, Sir Ian first referred the question to the words of the Prime Minister and then added that there were two possibilities, namely obstruction and withholding contributions. Those were two things that the Government would be loath to do because it was going for a solution, he told MPs.

From his answers, the Government would seem to be no longer talking about merely the possibility of retaliatory action. His words carry the clear threat that unless the issue is resolved at the next summit, the Government will take one of two named courses of action, it was heard.

Reduction by stages: Britain is asking its EEC partners to agree that the percentage of the Community budget spent on agriculture should be reduced in stages from 70 to 55 per cent by 1986 so as to produce a more equitable distribution of financial benefit between member-states (Our Brussels Correspondent writes). This request has been formulated during the past month.

Giscard defence of détente with Russia

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Feb 27

President Giscard d'Estaing spent 50 minutes on television yesterday evening explaining how France was seeking to put the world to rights. It was a spirited defence of his Government's attempt to maintain détente with the Soviet Union in the face of strong pressure from the United States.

France, he said, must not become "the province of a superpower". It was not a country that played to the gallery and it did not believe that diplomatic action consisted in multiplying shattering and pointless statements.

The policies of détente, he said, "in whose origins France has played a large part", had certainly contributed for the past 15 years to the maintenance of peace. At present, France's improving relations with Eastern European countries were modifying the state of things in Europe as a whole.

To abandon these policies of détente "would plunge into despair a part of the population of those European countries which are our partners in the quest for détente". In his view, however, France was not alone in this. The Soviet Union was retaining a positive character.

Détente, however, presupposed a climate of confidence and at the moment the demands of security had to be measured with much closer attention than before. France's current action was to explore the direction of détente to see if there was a Soviet will to pull its forces out of Afghanistan.

In his view three conditions would have to be met to solve the crisis caused by the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. These were the withdrawal of foreign military forces from the country, the universal right of the Afghans to decide their

own future and the guarantee that Afghanistan would not be a threat to its neighbours or become the focus of rivalry between the super-powers.

The President denied that France had been weak in its attitude over Afghanistan. It would have been simple, he said, to align itself with the United States but that policy "ceased to exist since France would become the province of a super power. That is not what our history teaches us."

Questioned on Europe, he said he believed it was beginning to weigh on the international scene. It was important that there should be a unity of views which was why he attached so much importance to the Franco-German statement on Afghanistan.

As far as Community matters were concerned he said that it was not possible for individual solutions to be found to such problems as the sheepleat and fishing arguments with Britain or on the British demand for reduction in its contribution to the European budget. "A solution must be found on all those dossiers for it to be acceptable to France", he said.

On Africa he said it was "absurd" to say that France had been imperialist in intervening in different countries. The only purpose had been to ensure peace in which development could continue. "That is why France reacts to attempts to destabilise Africa which are always inspired externally."

The President was proud of the fact that France was the third nuclear force in the world, with deterrent force of 20 megatonnes, and that it was the only Western country which had regularly increased its defence budget in real terms over the past five years.

He was also proud of France's role as "the country which does the most for human rights" since it had welcomed 150,000 political refugees.

Seven years for killing Briton

From Ian Murray
Paris, February 27

Farmers round the Bay of Bourgneuf in the Vendée are demanding the right to go on a wild goose chase. They complain that their winter crops are being destroyed by huge flocks of the birds which arrived a month ago from the Dutch polders.

Thirty of the farmers have lodged complaints with the Mayor of Boudin, the main town in the area, and are asking for compensation through the prefect of the Vendée. They say that the birds, which normally feed on seaweed, have ravaged their crop of winter corn. This means they will have to re-fertilize the land and plant their summer crop.

This is the second time in the last three years that the area round the bay has been

Farmers need permission to scare off protected geese

From Ian Murray
Paris, February 27

Invaded by wild geese and the farmers blame the fact that the birds have been declared a protected species.

According to the mayor of Boudin, this protection has made the birds quite fearless. He says that because it is illegal to shoot the birds he is now seeking authorization to chase them away by firing blanks at them.

Meanwhile Mlle Yvonne Barre, the mayor of Laz, in the Finistère peninsula, has decided against a scheme that might rid her commune of the 15,000,000 starlings which have been destroying the crops there.

She is hoping instead that local farmers may be given compensation for the destruction of their crops caused by the 15 tonnes of droppings left by the birds each day.

Paris funicular even greedier than Concorde

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Feb 27

The 50-seat funicular which carries footsore tourists up the steep slope of Montmarre burns more energy for each passenger kilometre than does the 98-seat Concorde, according to a study by the French Ministry of Transport.

Its figures show that while Concorde uses 233.2 grams of petrol equivalent each kilometre, the voracious funicular consumes 234.3 grams.

The sightseeing launches on the Seine come out best, using only six grams, while Paris buses average 19.4 grams, and private cars 59 grams. Trains are the cheapest land method of transporting goods,

Lisbon mosque will renew centuries-old tie

From Our Own Correspondent
Lisbon, Feb 27

The foundation stone of Lisbon's first mosque since the Portuguese were liberated from the Moorish occupation in 1297 was laid here today on wasteland towards the north of the city. It will cost £2m.

To the noise of bulldozers breaking up the earth, Mr. Tache Bouazza, the Moroccan Ambassador, dwelt on the need to strengthen the centuries-old links between Portugal and the Arab countries.

Also at the ceremony was the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Madrid, Mr. Nasr Almannour who is in Lisbon at the invitation of the ruling Social Democratic Party.

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OVERSEAS

Senator Kennedy and Mr Bush fight on despite first reverses

From Patrick Brogan
Manchester, New Hampshire
Feb 27

President Carter and Mr Ronald Reagan scored clear victories in the Democratic and Republican presidential primaries here yesterday, in each case winning half their party's vote. The results were a severe blow to the principal rivals, Senator Edward Kennedy and Mr George Bush. But in each case the loser swore to continue the fight.

The turnout was very high, 30 per cent above the 1976 figure in both parties. Out of a total vote of 108,219, Mr Carter won 49 per cent and Mr Kennedy 38 per cent and Mr Jerry Brown, the Governor of California, 10 per cent. A further 10 per cent were announced Mr Kennedy said: "We got almost 40 per cent. Four years ago, Jimmy Carter got 28 per cent and I got 22 per cent. We claim victory tonight."

Mr Brown announced yesterday that he would abandon the fight in the primaries that are being held in March, and would conserve his resources for the April 1 primary in Wisconsin, whose radical tradition he hopes will revive his chances.

Mr Reagan won 72,737, almost exactly half the 145,183 Republican votes cast. In 1976,

need a plane." Vermont is holding a primary on Tuesday.

His election was justified. A week ago, the opinion polls put Mr Bush well ahead of him and the last poll, prepared for the *Boston Globe* and published on Sunday, put the two men neck-and-neck. Part of his success is undoubtedly due to his own vigorous campaigning, which he continued until the last moment.

In contrast Mr Bush, who had devoted far more attention to New Hampshire over the past two years, did practically no campaigning here in the past 10 days, believing that everything he could do had been done, and that his supporters should be left alone to turn out the vote.

Mr Reagan's tactics were the opposite of those he used for the Iowa campaign, leading up to the caucuses held there on January 21. He then held himself aloof, the front runner, refused to attend a debate with his rivals, and spent very little time in the states.

These tactics were recommended by his campaign director, Mr John Sears, who has the reputation of being the shrewdest political operator in the Republican party. Mr Reagan lost Iowa to Mr Bush, and ignored Mr Sears' advice for the New Hampshire campaign, and ran his own.

He beat Mr Bush two-to-one and dismantled Mr Sears yesterday afternoon.

His new campaign director is Mr William Casey, a former Under Secretary of State, and not to be confused with the former director of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Mr Bush claimed, after his Iowa victory, that he had "momentum". He then won the Puerto Rico primary and hoped to win here and roll up the rest of the primaries.

Mr Reagan last night: "We won two and lost one. Disappointed as I am, I am absolutely convinced I am going to win the nomination."

He has clearly lost that magic momentum and can only recover it by doing well in the Massachusetts primary next Tuesday. The others are races that will follow a week later, in South Carolina, Florida, Georgia and Alabama and then the Illinois primary on March 18 will probably be decisive for him.

Ironically, he is still ahead of Mr Reagan in the number of delegates chosen or promised to him for the nominating convention. First returns from the Republican caucuses held yesterday in Minnesota put him ahead of Mr Reagan and there are twice as many delegates to be won there as in New Hampshire, and as many as those he won in Iowa and New Hampshire.



Last-minute campaigning by Mr Reagan

In the Democratic caucuses, President Carter appears to have won a sweeping victory over Senator Kennedy. It is Vice-President Mondale's home state.

Senator Baker and Mr Anderson claim that they are still in the race, and each hope that one or other of the front runners will be knocked out soon, allowing him to step up into second place. Neither did very well. Mr Anderson hopes to do better in liberal Massachusetts, and Senator Baker in his native South next month.

Their strategy is very like that of Senator Kennedy and Governor Brown. They are all hanging on in hope of a miracle. Mr Kennedy says that he will press on through thick and thin, even though the southern primaries will prove exceedingly thin.

His long-term hope, like Mr Brown's, is the country's nightmare: an 18 per cent inflation

rate is intolerable and unless President Carter can bring it under control, he is doomed to defeat especially if his foreign policy successes fade. The measures needed to reduce inflation, which might well include the wage and price controls that Mr Carter has sworn not to invoke, would hurt him in the primaries.

One clear contributing factor in Mr Bush's defeat was his behaviour last Saturday, at a debate between Republican candidates organized by the *Nashua Telegraph*, a newspaper in southern New Hampshire. The paper proposed a debate between him and Mr Reagan, and he committed the organizers to exclude the other candidates, against Mr Reagan's wishes.

He refused to meet them before the debate and it appears that the people of New Hampshire were affronted. Leading article, page 15

Janata leader resigns as party rift deepens over caste issue

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Feb 27

Mr Jagjivan Ram today resigned his post as leader of the Janata parliamentary party as public dissent within the leadership of India's former ruling party continued for the fourth consecutive day.

A party crisis had been brewing ever since last month's general election, when Mr Ram, who had hoped to become India's first Harijan (formerly Untouchables) Prime Minister, saw his party routed.

What set off the crisis was Mr Ram's refusal to consider, in order to oppose Mrs Indira Gandhi, any form of electoral alliance with the Lok Dal Party led by Mr Charan Singh, his opponent.

But Mr Ram decided instead on Sunday to clear the air by insisting that the Janata Party must solve the so-called "dual membership issue" if it is to have a future with India's electors.

However, Mr Ram has been careful not to resign from the

party itself. Speaking to reporters today after announcing his decision, he insisted that the Janata Party must be "totally delinked" from the RSS (the Union of Selfless Servers), a Hindu upper caste cadre organization.

He objects to this dual membership because some of the former leaders of the Janata Sangh wing of the Janata have associations with the RSS and have even stated that they are proud of them.

Tonight, Mr Ram rounded on leaders such as Mr A. B. Vajpayee, the former External Affairs Minister, and Mr L. K. Advani, both belong to the Janata Sangh wing, by declaring that "a majority of party workers and people in the country at large" would not be satisfied with anything less than their severing all links with the Hindu cadre organization.

Mr Ram's resignation came while Mr Chandra Shekhar, the Janata party president, was still trying to find some formula to

prevent the party being rent apart on the emotional RSS issue. For this virtually draws a line between the party's Hindu higher caste members and those, concerned for the minority vote of the Muslims and Untouchables, who backed Mr Ram.

Mr Shekhar today accused Mr Ram of having shifted his position on the RSS issue innumerable times underlining some of the party leadership's suspicion that Mr Ram is only seeking to exploit the issue for tactical reasons.

But Mr Ram also rebutted the unspoken suspicions about his motives. "If anyone is playing Mrs Gandhi's game it is not those who raise the RSS issue within the Janata party," he said in his resignation statement. "But those who try to bypass it."

Janata must prove its commitment to democracy and secularism, the former Janata Deputy Prime Minister insisted, by tackling the RSS problem head on.

Common sense guide to drinkers in India's maze of drink laws

From Our Own Correspondent
Delhi, Feb 27

There are encouraging signs for those who drink—that the total prohibition policies of Mr Morarji Desai, the personal foe of an octogenarian Prime Minister, are being allowed to lapse. They are unlikely to be formally buried, but common and even economic sense will, it seems, win the day.

But for the moment where and when you can drink in India still continues to be decided by high and mighty individuals or by the constantly changing Indian state policies.

There is evidence that even the unrepentant Mr Desai, who without bothering to consult his Cabinet in 1977 officially set his country off on a four-year phased introduction of total prohibition, is now aware of the changing attitude to alcohol.

His now ousted Government had decided last month, in the face of growing unpopularity, to relax its stringent anti-drink laws.

A few days ago, when talking up fellow prohibitionists in Gujarat, a dry state, the former Prime Minister proscribed down to India if his policy was not strictly enforced. But Mr Desai is now only an ordinary citizen.

However, with the state government dismissed, all powers

reverted to the governor, as fanatical a prohibitionist as Mr Desai. Though a nominated official, he has now scrapped all the reforms over the heads of the state's 50 million population.

For the people who are sufficiently well to do to be able to afford to drink, there is still a chance to spend a weekend in nearby Pondicherry, where the "evil traditions" of a former French colony are still very much alive. The bootleggers of Pondicherry are naturally delighted with the governor's whims.

Nationally, Mrs Gandhi's Government is carefully avoiding giving any clear-cut guidelines on prohibition, while forgetting Mr Desai's own promise to make up 30 per cent of all excise tax losses.

As a result Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the three biggest Hindi states, supposed to be the most orthodox, have begun reversing, without much ado, their anti-drink policies started largely to ingratiate themselves three years ago with Mr Desai.

Mr Gandhi's own position on drink is eminently reasonable: no compulsion, but Government policy should educate the people about the risks facing them and their families from overdrinking.

The crunch will come late

next month here in Delhi, which is scheduled under Mr Desai's dispensation to go totally dry on April 1. Naturally, there has never been a referendum on whether a majority of the capital's three million population approved of prohibition.

Currently, the 178 dry days of the year are a racket if you have the time and money and want a drink badly enough; town and bootleggers can always provide you with one. Corruption has merely entered the various Government corporations charged with retailing drinks, after Mr Desai decided that private retailers were not to be trusted. In one Delhi market the head waiter of a local restaurant is famous for what he can "arrange".

Alcohol, it should be emphasized, is in the Indian context today only a modest beer or at best Indian gin. Very few can afford even Indian whiskey, and Indian wine—a chemical concoction which is almost undrinkable—is double or more the price of plonk in Britain.

But Delhi's excise councillor has now signalled that total prohibition is unlikely to be achieved due to the "unhelpful attitude" of the central Government. A demand to foot a bill for the necessary enforcement squad for the capital had been refused, he said.

Queen Mary sinking in a sea of cash trouble

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, Feb 27

The Queen Mary has not set sail from Long Beach harbour since she dropped anchor there in 1967, but the old queen of seas is still in troubled waters as she has been for the past 13 years. There is word this week that she may be destined for the scrap heap.

Two years ago the City of Long Beach, owners of the vessel, which now is a hotel, museum and tourist attraction, put the financially floundering ship on the market. There was an early flurry of activity but this week Mr James McJunkin, general manager of the Long Beach port, said there had been no genuine bites from buyers and sales negotiations have petered out.

"We have two choices," said Mr James Gray, chairman of the Long Beach Harbour Commission. "We can keep the ship and continue losing money, or we can unload her for the scrap value of about \$3.5m (£1.6m)." A final decision must be taken by the end of June, he said.

During the last few months there have been sales talks with Abram Pritzker, owner of the Hyatt hotel chain, and Mr Noble Soriano, head of a wealthy Philippines family. Another unidentified foreign group has also expressed interest in the ship.

"We have not put a price on her," Mr McJunkin said. "But we must make up our minds what to do with her. We cannot procrastinate any longer."

The Queen Mary was saved from the scrap heap in 1967 when Long Beach purchased her from Cunard for \$3m. Since then the city, using oil funds, has spent another \$75m to renovate her and turn her into a tourist attraction. But the ship's new career was never a successful one.

The port of Long Beach took over her management in 1978 cutting the \$22m annual deficit to \$13m.

Mr McJunkin says he is still concerned about the rising costs of heating and cooling the ship which now runs at \$52,000 a month and will eventually reach \$1m a year.

Not long ago residents of Long Beach were asked what the city father should do with the Queen Mary.

"Tow it out to sea and run her as a gambling ship," one man suggested.

"Turn the state rooms into massage parlours, and see how tourism will improve," said another.

One cynic declared: "Leave the keys in the ignition and hope that a thief might take her."

Israel-EEC rift over Jerusalem

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Feb 27

A serious diplomatic dispute has broken out between the Israeli Government and the EEC Commission over the international status of Jerusalem and its suitability as a location for the Community's first office in Israel.

As a result of the disagreement, which has considerably strained relations, the EEC official appointed last year as the first representative to Israel has stayed put in Brussels.

The dispute centres around the insistence of Israel that the new office be based in Jerusalem and the EEC refusal to take such a controversial step, which would cause a furor throughout the Arab world.

The most countries will embassy in Israel, the EEC Commissioners want their delegation in Tel Aviv.

Negotiations about the office are continuing, however, an Israeli official source confirmed.

today. "What we are trying to do is to convince our negotiating partners in Europe that it would be desirable for them to have their office in Jerusalem."

According to the Israelis, the fact that the delegation would not be a regular diplomatic mission representing a state meant special legislation to ensure its members full diplomatic immunities and privileges.

"We have told the EEC that it will be much easier to get this through the Knesset if the envoy is based in Jerusalem," one official said.

The view of European diplomatic observers, there is no chance of the Israeli request being accepted. As a result, Israel's ability to present its economic case to the Community will be seriously weakened.

EEC officials are annoyed at what they see as Israeli unreasonableness, particularly after the decision to allow Egypt to set up its embassy in Tel Aviv. The Israelis insist the argument is

Dayan call for Israel withdrawal

Hamburg, Feb 27—Mr Moshe Dayan, the former Israeli Foreign Minister, in an interview published today, called for an end to Israel's administration of the occupied West Bank and the withdrawal of its troops from Arab towns.

He told the magazine Stern that the abolition of the Israeli military administration of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured in 1967, should be the first step towards achieving a settlement of the Palestinian problem.

"Israel must then pull its troops out of Arab towns and allow them to build up local Arab police forces," he said.

"Secondly, we must allow them to create an independent Arab leadership elected from the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

Mr Dayan, hero of the 1967 war, resigned from the Government last year in protest at its approval of new Jewish settlements in Arab territories.

He said that Israel's military presence in the Arab territories should be limited to border areas and strategically important points and troops should not interfere in the running of Arab communities.

Israel should take these measures without setting conditions or seeking Arab agreement. West Bank leaders would in any case refuse to negotiate except for full sovereignty.

The Arabs should be given full autonomy to run all their own affairs and maintain administrative links with the Israeli or Jordanian governments as they wished.

The West Bank Arabs recognized only the Palestinian Liberation Organization as their leaders and wanted independence. Israel could not accept this and had to try to defuse the tension in the area with unilateral compromise.

Time was running out for Israel he went on. Large amounts of weapons were flowing into the Middle East and the situation in Lebanon was again becoming unstable. It was vital to seek new ways out of the impasse.

received any official word on the fate of the abducted, many of whom are presumed dead. Some undecided delegations and the governments behind them, have no doubt been swayed by the reflection that if they fail to set an example by supporting measures against state-organized disappearances, they might one day be numbered among the victims of what Mr Memo Kamminga, of Amnesty International, called: "The technique of letting political opponents disappear."

He said governments found that convenient.

Dissident's son denies father was a burglar

Warsaw, Feb 27—The young son of the Polish dissident, today recanted in court a statement made to the police in which he had incriminated his father as a burglar.

Mr Zdzislaw, the son of the late Zdzislaw, a member of the Self-Defence Committee (KOR), said today.

Mr Zdzislaw, a retired worker and editor of the underground magazine *Robotnik* (The Worker), is the principal defendant in a trial in Grudziadz in which six men, including his two sons, are accused of theft and related crimes.

KOR recently protested publicly against what it called the authorities' attempts to jail dissidents as ordinary criminals. It said the indictment against Mr Zdzislaw made him look like "the Godfather of the Grudziadz underworld". The trial is expected to end next week—Reuters.

Hostility rises in West Bank after 40 vehicles damaged

From Our Own Correspondent
Jerusalem, Feb 27

Tension between Jewish settlers and the Palestinian Arab majority on the occupied West Bank has been heightened by an incident in the village of Hahoul last night in which about 40 Arab-owned cars were badly damaged in a raid.

Their tyres were slashed and their windcreens and headlights smashed.

Arab residents blamed extremists from Kiyat Arba, the Jewish settlement situated in the village of Hahoul, near by, the outside Hebron, near by, the scene last month of the murder of a young Jewish student. It is the second largest town on the West Bank.

The raid occurred less than a week before a Cabinet meeting to discuss putting into action its decision to allow Jews to settle in the centre of Hebron. A number of Kiyat Arba residents have already

threatened to occupy houses in the town.

This morning Arab students gathered in Hahoul and stoned a Jewish-owned bus before Israeli soldiers intervened. In recent weeks there have been frequent incidents in which Jewish settlers driving in the area have been stoned.

Later the Arab mayors of three other West Bank towns, Ramat al-Bihar and Hebron, arrived in Hahoul to inspect the damage. They sent a telegram of protest to Dr Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Last Friday the Israelis refused to allow Mr Fawd Kawasma, the mayor of Hebron, to fly to New York to attend the debate. Mr Yehuda Blum, the Israeli representative to the United Nations, claimed that the purpose of the mayor's trip would have been to lend support to Israel's avowed enemies.

firmly reminded by Mr Theodor van Boven, director of the United Nations Human Rights Division, that if the commission was involved on the issue it would be writing itself off as being irrelevant to current circumstances.

Another factor has been the presence in the public gallery for the past two weeks of relatives of people who have disappeared in Argentina. The appearance in Argentina of a line of women with white scarves over their heads, waiting silently, has impressed on delegates the suffering of the families involved. Few have

UN step to impede political abductions

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, Feb 27

A move to curb abductions by governments of political opponents is being taken by the 43-nation United Nations Human Rights Commission. It is creating a working group empowered to approach governments directly for information on missing people.

That development is a result of long negotiations in which non-aligned nations have proposed amendments to a draft Western resolution put forward in conformity with a General

Assembly, instruction that the commission act effectively on the issue of disappearances. The working group has been increased from three to five members.

Argentina, supported by Brazil and Uruguay, and with tactical support from the Soviet Union, has tried to have the issue of disappearances confined to confidential procedures. It is estimated that between 10,000 and 15,000 people have disappeared in Argentina in the past six years.

At the outset, delegates were

received any official word on the fate of the abducted, many of whom are presumed dead. Some undecided delegations and the governments behind them, have no doubt been swayed by the reflection that if they fail to set an example by supporting measures against state-organized disappearances, they might one day be numbered among the victims of what Mr Memo Kamminga, of Amnesty International, called: "The technique of letting political opponents disappear."

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(continued on page 25)

Cricket

Three centuries on final day of match marred by sourness

Christchurch, Feb. 27.—New Zealand and West Indies drew the second Test here today with the final day producing none of the excitement of the earlier days. The match was a draw, with the West Indies leading by 12 runs at the close of play.

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Haynes, Rowe and King all scored three centuries, making a total of five centuries in a match—six West Indies centuries in the first Test, and three in the second. The match was a draw, with the West Indies leading by 12 runs at the close of play.

New Zealand needed to make an early breakthrough this morning but Haynes and Greenidge carried their opening stand from 157 over to 225, a West Indies record, before Greenidge was caught at the wicket off Troup for 97.

The match slipped quietly to its

inevitable conclusion during the last two sessions, although Kallis and Lloyd fell cheaply in a minor collapse and King provided a stirring final when he hoisted Howarth for six over 447 for five in their second innings when the players came off 35 minutes early immediately after King had reached his hundred.

The incident that provoked the greatest outcry was when the West Indies fast bowler, Croft, collided with the umpire, Fred Goodall, while running in to bowl on the fourth day. Asked if an apology had been made for Croft's action, Mr Rodriguez said: "We are taking steps in that direction but we cannot say that the matter rests until the third Test and we would not be drawn on a suggestion that the third Test might be dropped for the incident."

Mr Rodriguez did not rule out the possibility of a match being played on the final day of the series.

WEST INDIES: 1st Innings: 250 (100 overs) 1. A. J. Kallis 127 2. D. A. Ganga 100 3. S. A. M. Roberts 100 4. S. A. M. Roberts 100 5. S. A. M. Roberts 100 6. S. A. M. Roberts 100 7. S. A. M. Roberts 100 8. S. A. M. Roberts 100 9. S. A. M. Roberts 100 10. S. A. M. Roberts 100

WEST INDIES: 2nd Innings: 100 (100 overs) 1. A. J. Kallis 127 2. D. A. Ganga 100 3. S. A. M. Roberts 100 4. S. A. M. Roberts 100 5. S. A. M. Roberts 100 6. S. A. M. Roberts 100 7. S. A. M. Roberts 100 8. S. A. M. Roberts 100 9. S. A. M. Roberts 100 10. S. A. M. Roberts 100

WEST INDIES: 3rd Innings: 100 (100 overs) 1. A. J. Kallis 127 2. D. A. Ganga 100 3. S. A. M. Roberts 100 4. S. A. M. Roberts 100 5. S. A. M. Roberts 100 6. S. A. M. Roberts 100 7. S. A. M. Roberts 100 8. S. A. M. Roberts 100 9. S. A. M. Roberts 100 10. S. A. M. Roberts 100

Spin keeps Australians under control

Karachi, Feb. 27.—Taufeeq Ahmed, a 20-year-old spin bowler, made an impressive first appearance for Pakistan as he helped restrict Australia to 199 for seven on the opening day of the first Test match here today.

Taufeeq, who made 55 runs, and the left arm spin bowler, Iqbal Aslam, bowled 53 of the day's 85 overs in fierce heat and a brown, bare pitch that provided the faster bowlers with little assistance. Conditions also conspired against an attacking approach on the part of the batsmen.

Any regrets Javed Miandad might have had when he lost the toss in the first match at Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, on Monday, his bowlers kept a tight hold on the Australian batting.

The morning period produced a meagre 33 runs, the afternoon 95 and the evening 51. It was a typical day's cricket on the arid surface of the National Stadium. The Australian players, Bruce Laird and Graham Yallop, survived for 43 minutes before Imran Khan achieved the day's only success by quick bowler when he had Imran Khan out for six. Yallop was second out at 39.

Tennis

Close call for Connors in first round

The top-seeded John McEnroe moved into the second round of the United States Open tennis championship when Byron Blackman withdrew after trailing 2-1 in the first set at Memphis, Tennessee. The Scottish player suffered a yellow arch in his foot.

Jimmy Connors, the second seed, needed two hours and 25 minutes to dispose of the Australian, Peter McNamara, 6-0, 6-0, 6-0. Connors lost the first set on a 7-2 tiebreak, then fought off a break point in the seventh game of the second set, and won the match in service twice in the first five games and coasted to his third-set victory in 35 minutes.

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Hughes: Top scorer with 85

when he edged Taufeeq to the wicketkeeper. Two wickets fell during the afternoon both to Qasim with the score at 93. Greg Chappell was stumped for 20 and soon after, Bruce Laird was taken for his first slip by Majid Khan for nought.

Taufeeq and Qasim continued to frustrate the batsmen in the final period and Taufeeq had his most important success when he restricted Australia to 199 for seven on the opening day of the first Test match here today.

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Wood queue lengths

Leicestershire have joined Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire in the chase for the former England Test player, Barry Wood. They have been given permission by Leicestershire to discuss terms with Wood, who two days after being given a testimonial cheque for £52,429, refused a new improved two-year contract to stay at Old Trafford.

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Olympic Games

Government refuse to finance Britons

The Government will refuse to provide extra money that may be needed if Britain's Olympic appeal fails to reach its target, says the Minister for the Olympics, Lord Hailsham.

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Rugby Union

Robertson returns to the Scottish ranks

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Motor racing

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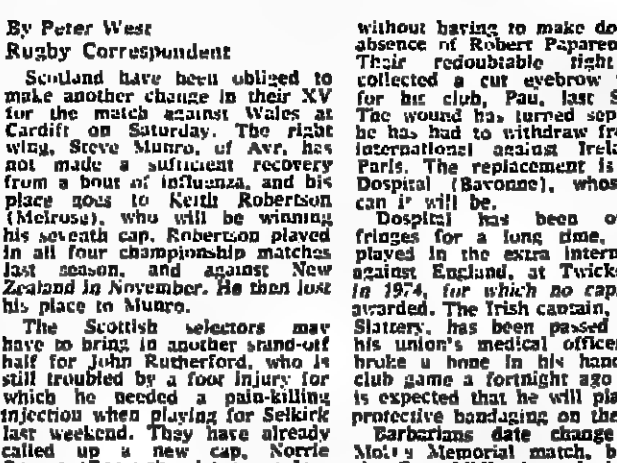
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Slattery: passed fit for Ireland after hand injury.

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New Books

Woman of the Revolution

Alexandra Kollontai
By Cathy Porter

(Virago, £12 hardback, £4.95 paperback)

"Watch out, you've never met a woman like her before!" Zinoviev's cry of admiration and alarm was echoed by others during Alexandra Kollontai's lifetime, 1872-1952. The story which begins with the aristocratic girl goes on to the revolutionary, the fighter for women's freedom, the Menshevik, Bolshevik, and oppositionist, and the social novelist, and ends with the highly respected and long-serving Soviet ambassador in Stockholm. Cathy Porter tells it all methodically and very fully.

The ironies are many. Having been behind Lenin in 1917 Kollontai soon came out against the too-great power of Lenin's government. A little later she watched with anguish while her husband Dybenko helped to put down the Kronstadt sailors' rising against that same dictatorial power. Later still, in 1937, Dybenko joined as a judge in sentencing Marshal Tukachevsky to death and then was himself shot in the same Stalinist terror. Kollontai endured hunger, devastating illnesses, stormy love affairs, political derision, and the passion for work and controversy that came from her always renewed zeal for life.

"Free love" is the phrase always associated with her. It provided the obvious title for the first English translation of the novel by her which Cathy Porter was later to translate under the title *Love of Workers*. Her frequent writings on sexual freedom exasperated the strait-laced Lenin. Yet in point of fact what she advocated was something more complex and more pretentious than "free love".

It all arose out of her campaign for women's freedom. She looked far beyond votes for women. She wished to liberate women from the heavy manual work usual in Russia and the daily drudgery in the kitchen. Very well: first abolish capitalism: exploitation, then mechanize much of the hand work, go on to set up communal laundries, canteens, and nurseries. At this point her imagination got the best of her. While all this would



help, women would still be tied to the family. But if still more communal services were provided in the brave, new world then the "nuclear family" would and should disappear.

Westerners at the time howled that she was proposing the nationalization of women. Her own view of the future was both fanciful and grim. Cathy Porter writes, "One could only assess a person's harmony with the interests of the group... That is why, Alexandra (Kollontai) wrote, however great two people's love for each other might be, 'the ties binding them to the collective will always take precedence, will be firmer, more complex, and more organized'." It is hard to imagine anything more off-putting, but perhaps Kollontai is only seeing that any society needs some conventions if it is to hold together.

Another of Kollontai's big

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Iverach McDonald

Public and Private

By Humphrey Trevelyan

(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

Lord Trevelyan has had a startlingly diversified life. His public service was divided between administration and diplomacy, two disciplines which are in essence more different than the public generally supposes, encouraged by the traditional British belief that the perfect preparation for either is a classical education at one of the two older universities. Perhaps there lingers also the memory of the days before competitive examinations when a nineteenth century common-law public affairs could say that "an English gentleman is presumed to have the abilities to perform the duties of any post which he has the influence to obtain." These chapters of autobiography demonstrate that it was greatly to the public benefit that after a first in Ancient History at Cambridge and after a formidable written examination of

fifteen three-hour papers he entered the Indian Civil Service in 1929 and was posted to the Madras Presidency. Since then he has served in the most difficult diplomatic posts in Peking, Cairo at the time of the Anglo-French intervention, and Moscow. He has done the State more service than Othello and describes it with a more engaging modesty.

The first two chapters are devoted to India before independence; his impressions of the transfer of power he has recorded in an earlier book. The other chapters mainly present a series of character sketches of the people with whom he had to deal in the course of his diplomatic service. He was, for instance, strongly drawn to Chou En-Lai who is plainly going to be one of the heroic figures of Chinese history; his personality, skillfully elicited here, already seems likely to cause him to outrank Mao Tse-tung in the people's affection. Dag Hammarskjöld is the subject of another chapter inspired by memories of his complex, sometimes

tormented mind and his passion for self-sacrifice. Nasser emerges as an Austen Chamberlain in reverse: always playing a crooked conspiratorial game and usually losing.

He is at his most entertaining on Abdul Karim Qasim, the dictator of Iraq, and Nikita Khrushchev, one blood-stained madman, the other a cunning peasant. His Ambassadorship in Baghdad was, like his Governorship of Aden, a mission to save what could be saved from the collapse of British policy. He ended by winning the openly expressed regard of the People's Sovereign and even more surprising, compensation for the destruction of our embassy. On Khrushchev he is at his driest and most perceptive. He was there for his overthrow by a coup of his colleagues, "the method of firing the boss favoured by the Kremlin and Fleet Street". Already Khrushchev did not know what to do, especially in internal affairs. At least he abolished, for a time, the worst features of Stalin's government by terror. When he fell few heads rolled though many of his entourage had been

deeply unpopular, especially his son-in-law Adzhubei to whom he had given special favours and privileges. Lord Trevelyan quotes the Moscow joke about Adzhubei (among many other excellent ones) that he had woken up one morning and found that he had married for love.

A darker chapter is the one describing his Governorship of Aden. His task was to withdraw and his problem was that this seemed likely to leave behind nothing but anarchy. He describes his arrival by air and his undignified transfer by helicopter to Government House where he reviewed a Guard of Honour of Aden Armed Police whom he surmised were already half on the other side. (The grammatical solecism rather blunts the point of the epigram but, apart from one more, and worse, example on the following page, Lord Trevelyan's style is both polished and vigorous. He tells strongly the frustrations of six months of struggle to install a successor regime. Towards the end he wisely allowed the contending factions to fight among themselves. Those whose memo-

ries do not serve them well may feel that they have not grasped from these pages the precise points of difference between the coily-named FLOSY, or Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen, and the National Liberation Front; the South Arabian League is conveniently labelled as the Saudi Arabians' powerless protégé. (Saudi Arabia indeed emerges as the loser who could have gained what it wanted if it had taken its advantages.) Afterwards they will remember the face that the final departure was dignified, with a ceremonial farewell from the South Arabian Army; and the generous tributes paid to colleagues and subordinates.

The second half of the book contains portraits of the Trevelyan family, among them the great Master of Trinity, George Macaulay, and the third Squadrone, Sir Charles, the third Baronet. They are all enchanting, and will do much more than meet the author's promise to be better than they are. Her many virtues are in the tradition of truth and conscience and prose that has run strong since the days of Emerson and Thoreau. But at the least, she is always witty and direct—one of the very few *qui s'excuse, m'amuse*.

David Hunt

A tiger in the gilded cage

On the Contrary

My Mary McCarthy

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £8.50)

The only time my wife was ever seen in America by a New England maid holding a silver platter, she asked what was on it. "Hash, Ma'am," was the answer. And Hash, Ma'am, are the words which sum up for me the plain truth and gleaming phrases of Mary McCarthy's collection of articles and novel. The contrast between her trenchancy and her politeness, the tension between her exact scruples and glittering style inform and delight. She ruthlessly points out that the Emperor has no clothes, then draws on seven silk veils to hide the nakedness. She is the tiger in the gilded cage, burning bright within the bars of liberal symmetry.

She explains something of her contrariness in her article on "The Vassar Girl". She came from Seattle, from where going

east to college was quite a step, in fact across a continent. She describes the mythic essence of her college as "a whirl of luxury and the ineffable plain thinking and high living". She herself is the supreme practitioner of that style, the clear-minded liberal who is vigilant in the defence of liberty, but believes that sympathy for strikers does not prevent the eating of a good French meal.

Particularly revealing is her piece called "My Confession". Written during the worse excesses of the witch-hunt stimulated by her namesake in the Senate, Mary McCarthy wrote of why she did not become a Communist in the Thirties. In New York, she moved in circles which showed off at May Day parades and got drunk to raise money for sharecroppers. The Party men seemed to her without scruple or compassion, made of a marmoreal astuteness.

Leaving her first husband, she almost joined the Party, because its members impressed

her by their secret knowledge that the future was theirs. But then, tricked into signing a letter in support of Trotsky at his Moscow show trial, Party pressure on her to remove her name provoked her contrariness. She would side with the weak. She would resist direction.

So she became officially an anti-Communist, because she would not toe the line. This did not stop her from defending the rights of Communists during the witch-hunts. In fact, her articles of belief on "The Contagion of Ideas" and "Naming Names: The Arthur Miller Case" are two of the more valuable defences of American liberal thought in print. And her opening piece, "America the Beautiful", expresses exactly the paradoxes of that generous, decent, polite and anti-materialistic society, which projects its reverse images abroad.

The reissue of *The Grover of Academe* (Weidenfeld & Nicol-

son, £6.50) shows that Mary McCarthy's qualities as an essayist can translate to the novel. Her mordant story of Henry Mulcahy's exploitation of liberal principles to secure tenure at a Pennsylvania college by claiming falsely that he is being sacked for having been a Communist is hilarious, absorbing and curiously timeless for a novel 30 years old.

Unlike Malcolm Bradbury in his brilliant, but too contemporary *The History Man*, Mary McCarthy manages to make the struggle between the scheming and frightful Mulcahy and the decent and shining College president into a fable of evil against good. *A Paranoiac's Progress* which remains out of time in its mind. She disapproves triumphantly the one flawed essay in her collection, "The Fact in Fiction", in which she overpraises the common sense and details of novels like *Babbalanza* at the expense of the writers of parable and fantasy. Her own book is a work of

acumen and imagination, which settles the hash of university politics in an academic that is undated and everywhere.

Finally, Mary McCarthy is a moralist who seeks to understand and blame. Her few faults lie in her justification of her journalism and America's corruption to be better than they are. Her many virtues are in the tradition of truth and conscience and prose that has run strong since the days of Emerson and Thoreau. But at the least, she is always witty and direct—one of the very few *qui s'excuse, m'amuse*.

Andrew Sinclair

Paperbacks in The Times on Saturday include reviews of early Waugh, Will Cather, and Kingsley Amis. Next Wednesday: Spring children's books, and the announcement of a picture book competition.

A fair city

Dublin
By Peter Somerville-Large

(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

Mr Somerville-Large's book on Dublin is a comprehensive and well-researched account of the history of the city from the time of the Viking invasions up to the 20th century. The reader may be forgiven for getting bogged down in the Slatlands surrounding the early city, because the book, whose bibliography lists nearly 200 sources, is so full of fact that it is sometimes damned confusing. As the Irish themselves say, "Don't read it if you have drink taken".

The Vikings and the Irish certainly seem to have traded, cupulated and killed each other all on the same day, and it is a surprising revelation to anyone brought up to believe that Brian Boru was the first king of all Ireland, to discover that he was killed by the fleeing Godard within a day of assuming kingship. A short-lived reign, indeed.

The invasion of the Normans, led by Strongbow, established Dublin as the axis of the Pale, which virtually excluded the native Irish, and with the advent of Henry VIII, Dubliners generally celebrated the coming of Protestantism. Bishop Curwen switching from one religion to another, and back again, with amazing alacrity.

It is the description of the city's development from wooden shacks to brick and plaster buildings, and construction in brick, that is so fascinating. The mixture of the primitive and the sophisticated in Dublin, which had a paved street in 1329, well over 100 years before Bristol could boast of a sewer, remains in the Dublin of today, and English was established as the official language by the Normans in 1495, though they themselves spoke Gaelic, more than French.

All aspects of the city's life are given in great detail. Mr Somerville-Large assumes his reader to have a knowledge of Irish history, generally.

Dublin was not truly Irish, and indeed, the majority of the people were not Catholic, until the early 19th century, and by 1829, 70 per cent of the people were recorded as being such. As late as 1791, before his book on "Catholic Rights" appeared, Wolfe Tone had to declare that he did not even know one.

It is between 1600 and 1800 that the history gets into its stride and finds its greatest strength, and, especially the period of Swift's Dublin, when the social life of the city took shape for the middle classes. Middle class ladies held charity balls in aid of the poor, and skated on the Liffey, in 1728, while thousands were dying of malnutrition and hardship in the back streets.

From 1800 to the 20th century, the Union with Great Britain and the Famine are faithfully chronicled. The book is called Dublin, and as a history of it up to the 20th century, it is very fine indeed. From modern times, however, when Dublin really became Irish, the content is rather weak and circumspect, particularly as regards the cultural development of the Irish and the spirit of the place as it is now. It is true that the City Centre dies at night and the suburbs are extending, but when it comes to the 20th century, Mr Somerville-Large gets at it, and does not stroke the soft, round belly of the girl. After all, the Bullock Headland of Viking times is still there, and you can still buy a fresh mackerel at the Harbour on your way home from work.

Nevertheless, the work does join Maurice Craig's *Dublin, 1700-1900* as standard reading for those with any interest in this subject.

Peter Langan

Horror merchants

The Third Book of Unknown Tales of Horror

Edited by Peter Haining (Sidgwick & Jackson, £5.95)

The After Midnight Ghost Book

Edited by James Hale (Hutchinson, £5.95)

These two books gain in interest when they are read in conjunction. Mr Haining's horror collection ranges over 150 years, from Poe and lesser-known post-Frankenstein people to Dele's Noble's admirable "Rosemary for Remembrance" published in 1976; Mr Hale sticks to the present and the future, and four of his contributors are older than fifty. It's possible, therefore, after reading the two to assess how far writers have changed their tactics when addressing themselves to the business of making people's hair stand on end like quills upon the fretful porpoise.

Jane Austen blew her trumpet before the walls of Northanger Abbey, and behold they fell flat because they were made of painted cardboard. The horror merchants were on the whole slow to accept her mockery as justified, but by now the lesson has pretty well sunk in. Some moderns still, however—Stephen King in "The Night of the Tiger" (Haining), for example—are too determinedly horrific to arouse in the reader any willing suspension of disbelief. Poe based, on the other hand, the little known "Warring on the Wissahiccon" (Haining), 136 years old and a mere thousand words long, creates his authentic atmosphere of earnest and dread without ever being tempted into overstatement.

No one should underestimate the difficulties confronting writers who deal professionally in the frisson. It is easy, as well as dangerous, to rely too much

on the well-tried recipe. The theme of possession for example—of an animal by a human or the other way round—can be made to work effectively. Here Peter Dickinson's "Mick" (Hale) brings off the old trick with admirable aplomb and even more admirable brevity: Steve Wilson's "O Keep the Cat from Home" (Hale) on the other hand gave me no creeps, perhaps because the story was over-elaborate. A casual, improvisatory ease of manner somehow heightens uneasiness. One thinks of A. J. Alan's broadcast stories long ago—so airy, and yet so chill.

Both these books very effectively put on show the very numerous variations of method which can be used, and they also demonstrate that, provided the timing is right and the mood kept steady, the innovator can house his story on to its target. Steve Stern's "Rudolph Fink's Apprenticeship" (Hale) is surreal, thrives on supernatural knockabout—and succeeds.

The best, if you leave Poe's *Wissahiccon* river to wind on its memorable way, are Michael Lewis's "Unsettling" and "Breakers of Rain" (Hale) which makes brilliant capital out of something as ordinarily unpredictable as the English weather, and M. P. Shiel's "A Shot in the Sun" (Haining), which is about witch-doctoring in the American South before Emancipation, and forces you along with its irresistible vigour. Shiel, who was of H. G. Wells's generation, is a strangely gifted writer who has been resurrected before; he deserves to be rescued, this time on a settled basis, from his limbo.

Neither book makes room for the work of E. F. Benson, and this is a pity because he could produce stuff as fiercely spooky as anything since—well, Poe again, of course, who, with Villiers de Maistre, holds prime mastery in the genre.

David Williams

Fiction

Old Soldiers

By Paul Bailey

(Cape, £4.95)

From the Fifteenth District

By Mavis Gallant

(Cape, £4.95)

Madonna of the Island

By Miranda Seymour

(Michael Joseph, £8.95)

Intimations of mortality are among the most sobering of human reflections; and to bring us into the presence of the dead and dying and then, without the slightest precautionary numbing of ordinary emotions, bewilder us into laughter is a remarkable literary feat. Paul Bailey's new novel, however, does just this, and, gently, without a taint of black farce, Victor Barker, retired and recently widowed, is on a visit to London (which he hates) in flight from memories of domestic happiness in Newcastle. London is no solace to him. On

the contrary, it wakes all the bitterness of years long past: dreams of his dead father's whining and weakness and "longing to cease being Billy Barker" and, more persistently, visions of friends blown to pieces in the First World War. Worst of all, because he is lonely, and Captain Hal Standish can claim to be an old soldier of the same generation, Victor finds himself entangled with a man he knows is a sham. And Standish takes place at the surreal periphery of Victor's London experience: of Victor's that is, as Hal Standish himself can be said to have an existence at all. For he is only one of three interlocking impostures. Linked by the Euston Left Luggage Lockers where each role are stashed in turn. Among the belongings which go to make up Standish's set of false teeth: for scruffy old Tommy, dosing on the Mission, these are scrapped altogether; for Julian, failed poet and open-air performer, another, knobby performer, another, who brings its own perks, but who precisely sits concealed behind these three bizarre faces?

Victor Barker, conned into taking whoever-it-may-be in his flight from memories of domestic happiness in Newcastle. London is no solace to him. On

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while he is doing it. Most of the stories have touches of ironic observation. The one Baum to survive Hitler is engaged in making television films about the Occupation, until one day he is told: "The fact is—forgive me for saying so—but you are the wrong age to play a Jew. Who cares what happens to a man of forty three?" Miss Gallant has a wicked eye for the limits of human compassion.

Miranda Seymour's novel is an honest, unpretentious book which touches on many of the themes of the other two: love, dying, and being an English foreigner abroad, this time on a Greek island. Miss Seymour is unquestionably more adroit in dealing with the villagers, than with either the rich in their villas, or the much-loved and awaited lover too proud to admit his illness is terminal. Her heroine does not fence the villagers out and so they pour in: to gull her, and beg from her, and use her garden as an extension of their own. The book flags a little in the centre, and the symbolism of the wood-eating creatures in the Romanesque Goddess being destroyed by gas escaped me. But I believed in the life of the village, and that gave life to the novel.

Elaine Feinstein

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GRUELLING CONTEST AHEAD

The big surprise of the New Hampshire primary has been the poor showing of Mr George Bush. Before this it had seemed that he was well placed to become the Republican candidate and that he stood a reasonable chance of being the next President of the United States. This judgment was based partly on his success in the Iowa caucuses and partly on the growing support for him in the opinion polls. If he were the candidate, then the widespread impression of him as a sound man of pleasant personality and considerable experience, with views that were neither too liberal for conservatives nor too conservative for liberals, might make him a formidable challenger to Mr Carter.

But now he has failed to achieve either of his objectives in the first of the key primaries. His first aim obviously was to defeat Mr Reagan, but his inability to do that would have mattered less if he had fulfilled his second purpose. This was to be at least a sufficiently strong runner-up to convince everyone that it had become essentially a two-man race for the nomination. This, he hoped, would discourage other candidates like Senator Baker and Congressman Anderson, and would draw their backers from pouring more money into their campaigns. The longer and the stronger they kept going the more difficult it will be for Mr Bush to gather all the anti-Reagan forces in the party around his standard.

Mr Baker and Mr Anderson came a poor third and fourth, with 13 and 10 per cent of the votes respectively. But as Mr Bush won only 23 per cent, that still leaves open the struggle to

be Mr Reagan's principal opponent. It is right to put it in these terms because Mr Reagan still does not look to be the strongest candidate that the Republicans could field. His reputation as an extreme right-winger may appeal to his own party, but not to so many of the independents and Democrats whom a Republican must win over in order to be President. It is also a handicap that he now looks the age of 69. So, despite the evidence of New Hampshire, if the Republicans are intent on nominating a winner they are likely to look elsewhere.

That person could still be Mr Bush. It is not yet clear why the actual results in New Hampshire were so much worse for him than the polls suggested they would be. Was it because the voters in this predominantly conservative state were so shaken by the news that consumer prices are now rising in the United States at an annual rate of 16 per cent that they suddenly flocked to the most conservative candidate in the field? If so, that cannot be a sure guide as to how voters in other states will respond. Inflation is clearly the issue on which Mr Carter is most vulnerable, but it does not follow that the most conservative opponent would be the one most likely to bring him down in the national election.

Alternatively, did Mr Bush do badly because he played his hand so clumsily in the fracas over the public debate when he appeared to be the one candidate not prepared to debate against all his opponents? In that case, it is not likely that a little local incident of this sort will influence opinion for long in

other states—though the ease with which Mr Bush fell into an obvious trap prepared for him by the Reagan forces does suggest that he is a less astute politician than had been suspected. Whatever the explanation is, a long hard battle now lies ahead. New Hampshire has not closed the contest but made it more open.

That applies on the Democratic side as well. Mr Carter's margin of victory over Senator Kennedy is less than had been predicted. It is certainly not enough to knock the Senator out of the race, as had seemed possible in the immediate aftermath of Iowa. The old rule whereby the winner in a primary secured all the state's delegates to the party convention no longer applies in most states. The new system of proportional allocation of delegates according to the number of votes cast means that it is possible for the nominal loser in the early primaries to keep in touch with the front-runner in terms of delegates. Thus Mr Carter has won only one more delegate than Mr Kennedy from New Hampshire. It follows that there is more point than there used to be in maintaining an apparently unsuccessful challenge. The question is whether a candidate's funds dry up after early defeats. That may well remain a problem for Mr Kennedy, but he is still sufficiently in contention for it not to present a greater difficulty in the weeks ahead than it is already. With all the advantages of the incumbent, Mr Carter stands decidedly the better man. But for both parties New Hampshire has increased the prospect of a gruelling contest for the nomination.

A BARGAIN THAT HAS TO BE KEPT

It was never a good idea to validate the kidnapping of the American hostages in Iran by sending a United Nations Commission to "investigate" the regime of the Shah. There was, however, at least the argument that shabby means might achieve desirable ends. Now it seems that even this argument may be falling away, for Ayatollah Khomeini is quoted as saying that a decision on the hostages will have to wait for the new legislature, which is not expected to be formed until April. If this turns out to be the case, the United Nations will have dragged its name and President Carter's to the dust to no avail. They will have paid a high price for nothing. Appropriate though this may be as retribution for compromising with illegality it will do no good to anybody. The hostages will suffer. The United Nations will suffer. President Carter will suffer. Above all Iran itself will suffer.

There was considerable foreign sympathy for the people of Iran when they overthrew the Shah. It was recognized that there were

genuine grievances against his regime. Much of this sympathy was squandered when lawless and bloody revenge was taken on his supporters but the world would still have been ready to listen to genuine evidence of suffering, injustice and corruption. Sadly even this readiness is being steadily reduced by the callous and illegal behaviour of the "students". Far from drawing attention to their allegations against the Shah they are diverting attention from them by putting the hostages on the centre of the stage. And far from winning sympathy they are squandering it by discrediting their claim to a moral right to judge the Shah. Worse still, they are in danger of making their own government look weak and foolish.

The United Nations Commission was intended as a means of helping Iran to release the hostages without losing face. It was supposed to give them a token they could claim as victory. If this help is now spurned the loss of face will be far greater. A clearly understood bargain will have been broken, which will

make any further bargains by this government suspect. The President of Iran will stand revealed as a man who, although elected by a handsome margin and recently made commander-in-chief of the armed forces, stands helpless in the face of a gross breach of international law and Islamic custom by some very junior citizens of his own country. It is very difficult to see how the kidnappers can argue to themselves that this will do anything but damage the interests of their country.

Now that the commission has started its work it should continue for the time being in order to give the Iranians time to think. It should then wind up its hearings and return home. If the hostages are not then released it must suspend its work until they are. To issue findings which will anyway be invalid by the very nature of the commission's origins without achieving the only aim for which the commission was set up would be to turn a noble idea into an extremely humiliating and damaging defeat for all concerned.

A LEGAL PROCESS OPEN TO ABUSE

The private prosecution for criminal libel brought by Mr Roger Gleaves against two journalists and their publishers should not have been admitted. The law of criminal libel is supposed to be brought into play only in cases where the alleged libel is so damaging to reputation that the award of damages in a civil libel suit is not adequate compensation. There is also a considerable weight of legal opinion—though it is not unanimous—that criminal libel proceedings ought only to be allowed where the grossness of the defamation raises the threat of a breach of the peace, and where there is an element of public interest justifying the intervention of the criminal law to deal with what would normally be a civil matter.

Under none of these criteria should Mr Gleaves, a man convicted of extremely unpleasant and serious offences, some involving children, have been given

leave by a court to bring proceedings for criminal libel. There was nothing in "Johnny Go Home", the book alleged by Mr Gleaves, to have contained the libels complained of to justify departing from the normal remedy available, a civil suit for damages.

The last individual to bring private criminal proceedings for libel was Sir James Goldsmith, against Private Eye. That prosecution was inappropriate and should not have been allowed to reach the Old Bailey (where, by agreement, it was withdrawn). The Gleaves prosecution provides an even stronger case against allowing private prosecutions for that offence. There are some cases—for example, a malicious campaign of poison pen letters publicly libelling an individual, where the sender has no money with which to pay libel damages—where the remedy of criminal libel may be appropriate. But it should not be left to the

individual to bring the prosecution. If criminal libel is to continue to exist as part of the law, it should be left to the police to take action. In general, however, the criminal law should not meddle in what is primarily a quarrel between private individuals.

Unfortunately, Mr Gleaves has other prosecutions for criminal libel in the pipeline, for which he has not needed leave because they are not against newspapers or publishers. The fact that after yesterday's verdict he is unlikely to succeed in any of them is scant consolation for defendants who will find themselves out of pocket (Mr Gleaves has no money, and awards out of public funds will meet only part of the defence costs), and who will have to bear the expectation of a court hearing over many months. It is now clearer even than it was before that the law should be changed to stop future abuses of the legal process by private prosecutions for criminal libel.

British Council cuts

From Mr Hans Werner Renze
Sir, Since the foundation of the Centre International d'Art in Montecatini (1975) we have enjoyed continuous support in strength from the greatest young musical talents of Britain. This year the number of British artists participating is expected to be 140 out of a total of 210. During these formative years of the Centre, the British Council in Italy has given us practical support and encouragement.

I expect many of your readers will have enjoyed both the BBC television documentary (1976) and the recent "Arrivederci Grime" (ITV) which give some indication of the artistry which the British Council's contribution has made possible. Montecatini has been founded in a spirit of communication between artists and community. Of all nations participating, Britain has done more than any to promote this spirit.

The informed British public will, no doubt, share my dismay that this contribution is threatened by cuts of the British Council's funds.

I hope that the flow of young British musical genius to this annual international gathering will not be placed in jeopardy by short-term economic considerations.
Yours sincerely,
HANS WERNER RENZE,
La Loprana,
Via del Fontanile,
Marino,
Rome.
February 16.

A foreign field

From Professor Thurstan Shaw
Sir, In your today's issue (February 27), the obituary notice for Mrs Sylvia Leith-Ross refers to her husband's grave at Zungu in Nigeria. Three years ago I visited this grave and found it like most of its companions, in a neglected state: it is situated in a cemetery which was in use during the first two decades of the present century and contains something like 80 graves. About half of these are marked by memorials of which a date can be read. The cemetery is now quite hard to find in the bush, any path to it being quite overgrown; it is surrounded by a rusty iron fence with a gate which a date can be read. The cemetery is now quite hard to find in the bush, any path to it being quite overgrown; it is surrounded by a rusty iron fence with a gate which a date can be read.

As the result of inquiries to the British High Commission in Kaduna, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Ministry of Defence, I have ascertained that no one accepts responsibility for the 1914-18 war; they do not accept responsibility for civilian personnel nor for military personnel who were unwisely enough to die before or after the First World War. Inquiries locally elicited the information that the Nigerian Govern-

ment paid for the care and upkeep of the cemetery until about 1965; my guess is that the Nigerian independence in 1960, this was a practice which was continued simply by the momentum from the previous administration, but that after 1965 it was considered inappropriate for Nigerian taxpayers' money to be devoted to the upkeep of the graves of foreign invaders—a view which one can easily concur, unless the cemetery were regarded as part of Nigeria's history, in the way that Ghana regards the trading castles built along her coast by foreign exploiters as part of her history.

I corresponded with Mrs Leith-Ross concerning the grave, and she, in turn, will let her speak on the subject: "Graves do not really matter but I am glad to think Leith's has been tended once again by friendly hands."

"Looking around the huge faceless area of Kessal Green cemetery, it seemed almost better to let the bush quietly take over our Nigerian graves. On the other hand, Africans feel so strongly about the graves of their ancestors that such disregard by Europeans of their own dead must shock them."

Differences about Britain's road to hyper-inflation

From Mr Robin Wilson
Sir, There is, I feel, one significant omission in your leader referring to the "desires of the opposition" within the Conservative ranks. Surely many Tory MPs secretly believe that the painless way out of the current economic impasse would be the imposition of import controls.

Indeed, one could say that a modest start has already been made in the textile sector and the shoe manufacturing industry is now lobbying with great determination. I personally believe that the number of MPs of both major parties supporting "temporary" import controls will grow to alarming proportions during the course of 1980. As you pointed out, there are already a large number of Conservative MPs who are trying to convince themselves that there is a soft option.

To these people import controls will represent the soft option par excellence in the coming months. Such policies would, of course, only speed up the decline of British industry, and would possibly be even more catastrophic than easy money.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN WILSON,
12 Inghs Road, W5,
February 26.

From the Chairman of the Tory Reform Group
Sir, Perhaps The Times has suffered a head transplant. Your leader attacking the "good guys" in the Cabinet (February 26) was sufficiently one-sided and mischievous to qualify it for inclusion in one of the less thoughtful newspapers.

However, as an exercise in showing that that group are in error it was a remarkable failure. First, having given them the benefit of the doubt on motive and character, you charge that they are ignorant: the non-economists versus the economists. In economics, which is completely missing the point that there is a good deal of common ground regarding the basic economic analysis (eg, the need to reduce the claim on natural resources made by the public sector). The differences arise over the implementation of the strategy.

Secondly, you ask rhetorical questions such as where else they would cut public expenditure. You know that as members of a Cabinet they are not free to reply. Furthermore, if your leader writes the rest of the paper they would find answers enough.

For example, you report on the same day the economic nonsense that may be forced on the Greater London Council of cutting back its capital spending on automatic ticket machines, thereby prolonging its continuing financing of a current account of large numbers of unpaid fares.

Not content with unanswered questions you proceed to non-questions about whether they favour an incomes policy. I imagine that all members of the Cabinet, whatever the differences, have noticed that we already have an incomes policy. Some may be more concerned than others about its inconsistency and its impact on expectations in the public sector, but it

is hardly relevant to ask whether a policy is thought desirable.

Finally, you totally ignore the most immediate cause of Conservative doubts both within and without the Cabinet. That is political. Can the real reduction in living standards implied by Conservative economic policy be introduced without such a political upheaval that the Government falls?

"Nobody knows the answer, but the 'good guys' are sensible enough to want to avoid making a difficult task even more so. It is non-economic, good luck to them."

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE LANDA,
9 Poland Street, W1,
February 26.

From Mr Patrick Kemp
Sir, I was greatly entertained by your leading article. For the first paragraph or two I mistakenly thought that it was intended to be serious, but even the most self-opinionated headmaster temporarily overcome by his own gravity could hardly have written: "They do not understand economics. They are historically out of phase and intellectually out of their depth."

After all, show me the man who understands economics. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
P. R. KEMP,
Round Hill Lodge,
Hockering Road,
Voking,
Surrey.

From Mr Mark Tennant
Sir, You have devoted much of your February 25) to articles warning Mr Thatcher of the evils of monetarism.

On the one hand Eric Hoffer (page 14) accuses Professor Friedman of not reaching "A" level economics in a discussion which I would have thought smack-dab of arrogance when applied to someone who won a Nobel Prize for his work on the subject.

Mr Hoffer's problem is that his principles have been brought into such fundamental question by the concept of monetarism and it goes so much against his grain that he has failed to understand what Friedman is trying to say. Monetarists do not say that government has too much to play. They do not say that governments should not pass legislation imposing such things as minimum standards in public health or education as they did in the nineteenth century.

What they do say is that government should not interfere in what would otherwise be free markets. Mr Hoffer is determined that there must be some central planning of the economy.

This runs contrary to common sense; the complexities of modern economic life are far too great for a bureaucracy to appreciate and, if it will almost certainly get it wrong. The point surely is that Eric Hoffer's way has been in operation in the UK since the war and it has been utterly disastrous.

We now know that the alternative to monetarism does not work. What we do not know is whether the Friedman way is right, but we cannot possibly judge its success, as

Mr Hoffer has tried to, after only nine months.

Neo-Keynesianism was, after all, given 25 years.

On the other hand, the second article (page 19) was unintelligible to any but the post-graduate economist. The writers even succeeded in complicating a statement of the monetarist central position. For those who did not understand their version it is that "if the supply of money is increased out of line with demand its value will decrease."

I would find it difficult if it was as easy as to argue with this. Perhaps if Professors Hahn and Phelps wish to argue their stance in public they could do it in a less theoretical and more intelligible way.

Yours faithfully,
MARK TENNANT,
Inchbrook House,
Elgin.

From Mr Jeremy Mayhew
Sir, In response to today's editorial, it is not possible that at least some of the Cabinet ministers who you deprecatingly describe as "non-economists" believe that our country's problems are primarily political and social and that such problems cannot be "economically" prescribed?

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY MAYHEW,
Balliol College,
Oxford.

From Mr R. S. Dale
Sir, Your editorial in suggesting that the present Cabinet split is between economists and non-economists, implies as a corollary that a Cabinet steeped in modern economic theory would necessarily be united on the major economic policy issues of the day. But surely nothing could be further from the truth.

One look at the National Economic Development Council's latest survey of United Kingdom economic forecasts, *Prospects for the UK Economy: the Range of Views*, December 1979, will show you that there is fundamental disagreement between reputable economists as to:

1. Whether the chain of causation is from the money supply to money wage increases or the other way round;
2. Whether public expenditure cuts stimulate or depress economic activity in the private sector;
3. Whether a high/rising exchange rate has a significant effect on inflation and/or export volume and the balance of payments.

It is ironic that, at a time when economists are placing increasing emphasis on sophisticated quantitative analysis, basic questions involving elementary causal relationships and likely directions of change are clouded in academic controversy.

The conclusion to be drawn is that, contrary to your own editorial assertions, non-economists have a great deal to teach us about the real world.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. DALE,
Priston Place,
Priston,
Avon.

Pots or kettles?

From Mr Martin Lewes
Sir, When union leaders successfully order a strike against the will of the membership, your correspondents and commentators howl about a lack of democracy.

When the leaders order a return to work but unofficial strikes continue, the cry for more control goes up.

You will therefore forgive me if I feel a little confused.

But when I see the number of brand new cars, costing several times a networker's annual income, which some people can afford to drive; when I see from your property features that some classes have little difficulty in finding sums well in excess of £100,000 for a house; when I notice in many parts of the country a display of wealth and high income far beyond most workers' dreams of affluence; I find it difficult to believe it is trade union members who have to quote Sir Robert Unwin (February 23) as exploiting the nation for the satisfaction of their sectional appetites.

If this is what trade unions have been doing, their lack of success indicates they have less power than your correspondent or the present editor would believe.
Yours faithfully,
MARTIN LEWES,
5 Meadow Hill Crescent,
Redditch,
Worcestershire.

Rhodesian masterworks

From Mr P. A. Pennem-Rea
Sir, UDI seems to be a key date in Geroldine Norman's article on Rhodesian art on February 9, and it is similarly quoted in Sir Roland Penrose's letter of February 15.

However, Mrs Norman twice refers to UDI occurring in 1970 but Sir Roland does not correct her. Since UDI was in 1965 and Mrs Norman's aim was partly concerned with the relatively brief directorate of Frank McEwen at the Rhodesian Art Gallery, the article is of doubtful value as a piece of art history.

Yours truly,
P. A. PENNEM-REA,
Laurel Tree Cottage,
Guiting Power,
Nr Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.

Cross picket lines

From Mrs Clare Fordham
Sir, The pickets do themselves and their cause a disservice when they claim to be "scabs, bastards and whores" (The Times, February 20) because they will not join them.

Although a lifelong socialist, I must protest against the use of violence, physical and verbal, to compel conformity.
Yours faithfully,
CLARE FORDHAM,
20 Mares Road,
Ashey de la Zouck,
Leicestershire.

Complaints of injustice

From the Secretary of Justice
Sir, The Lord Chief Justice is rightly concerned about the overloading of the resources of the criminal Division of the Court of Appeal and the delays and denials of justice which it is causing. It is however open to question whether his new directive, which is designed to penalize or deter appellants whose cases are not signed by counsel or who, even when supported by counsel, do not accept refusal of leave by the Single Judge, is the right approach to the problem.

My experience of helping prisoners with their appeals over a period of 20 years leaves me in no doubt that it could well lead to even greater denials of justice. Counsel differ widely in competence, courage and concern, in their judgments of the prospects of a successful appeal and in technical expertise. They may have been inadequately briefed or have been given the papers only the night before the trial.

If a would-be appellant's main ground of complaint is that he has been let down by his lawyers, then what is he to do? His counsel will not endorse an application and it is not easy for him to find another who will. On the other end of the spectrum there are the cases where counsel has done his best to secure the acquittal of a man he believes to be innocent but tells him that, although the judge was very biased he has no grounds of appeal in law that are likely to succeed.

Price of social services

From the Director of Social Services, Lambeth
Sir, After Anthony Steen's offensive attack (February 13) on chief officers in the public sector and his naive ideas for transferring the responsibilities for community social services into private enterprise, anything I say is likely to be regarded by him as based on inscrutable self-interest, suitable to a modern mandarin.

But if I can respond to Steen's argument that we have got it all wrong and that social services would be better provided by good neighbours and housewives, I think he totally misunderstands the complexity and scale of the problem. Social services for elderly and handicapped people and children, whether in Council accommodation or to individuals and families in their own homes, are provided for the most severely frail, vulnerable, and those at the greatest risk of danger or harm to themselves. Although statistically insignificant in the population as a whole, large numbers of people are involved (eg. 880 in Lambeth's Old People's Homes, approximately 1,550 children in the care of the Council, 1,700 meals on wheels delivered weekdays, 2,000 meals on wheels delivered weekends and particularly with regard to the dependent elderly people; the number over 80 years

of age will be substantially more in the future). The tasks in the form of management and organization, including staffing, catering, cleaning and transport, require rather more than the enthusiastic efforts of local people and community groups.

It seems to me quite pointless to disparage what is generally being well done by the public authorities and suggest inadequate and inappropriate alternatives even if it is currently fashionable to discredit the value of the public services.

It is difficult enough to work out how each of us individually with our own resources can best organize our own resources to ensure a contented and comfortable old age for them. We are all familiar with difficulties of finance, accommodation and distance or proximity with all the interrelated issues of independence, and yet the need for support and assistance.

Much better to work out ways of solving some of these problems to our advantage, yet recognizing that some people, particularly those who have literally no friends or families to take any interest in them, will require the support and eventually care of the services provided through a compassionate society.

Yours faithfully,
TOM SARGANT, Secretary,
Justice for the Elderly, on the
International Commission of Jurists,
95a Chancery Lane, WC2,
February 20.

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Much better to work out ways of solving some of these problems to our advantage, yet recognizing that some people, particularly those who have literally no friends or families to take any interest in them, will require the support and eventually care of the services provided through a compassionate society.
Yours faithfully,
ROBIN OSMOND,
London Borough of Lambeth,
234-244 Stockwell Road, SW9.

A private view of British art

From Mr Douglas Cooper
Sir, Your over-hasty correspondent R. Berthoud (February 20) has distorted the sense and purport of my writings about the painting of the late Graham Sutherland.

I can see nothing in the work of any British artist of the twentieth century which obliges me—judging the course by international and external standards of achievement—to recognize a major creative talent. To my eyes, the work of all of them seems mediocre, uninspired and not particularly competent. How then can Berthoud accuse me of "knocking down" people who have never seemed to me to be standing up?

For a short period before 1970, I thought I saw in Graham Sutherland a gifted painter and a creative artist, who was inadequately appreciated and misunderstood. I attempted, therefore, through a few exhibitions and essays in *Derivative*, to explain and justify to the public what my eyes and mind understood as continuing the essence of Sutherland's special value as an artist.

I compared him to an one, nor did I need to "knock down" others in order to "build up" Sutherland because his qualities seemed to me self-evident. Subsequently, Graham Sutherland's work seemed to me to become progressively weaker and more repetitive and I lost interest in it.

I still think, however, that Sutherland achieved more as a painter, with more originality, than the innumerable nonentities of the British School in his day, though I never for a moment believed or claimed that Graham Sutherland was, in the historical perspective, an artist of major stature.

Sincerely yours,
DOUGLAS COOPER,
Monte-Carlo Star,
15 Boulevard Louis II,
Monte-Carlo,
Monaco.
February 21.

Sprucing up hillside

From Mr W. Cowley
Sir, May I support Lord Hylton (February 22)? Since cutting of bracken for bedding became uneconomical (no North Yorkshire hill farm was without its bracken stack in the 1930s) bracken has encroached on thousands of acres. It is now useless to man and dangerous to be ridden on. It is a serious barrier between high ground and low ground is left, bracken land would generally be much better afforested.

What we must avoid is any further encroachment of forestry on to heather moor or open hillside, the ruin of the landscape and the sheep. The economic argument for trees there is as fallacious as that for low-flying aircraft. What is the use of national safety in future if meanwhile the quality of life is damaged or destroyed? In the words of a famous rambling song: "Ramble than part from the mountains."

I think I would rather be dead. Yours faithfully,
W. COWLEY,
Potto Hill,
Swainby,
Northampton,
North Yorkshire.
February 25.

An invaluable quango

From Mr Duncan Fairn
Sir, After the many disquieting letters about the ending of the Home Secretary's Advisory Council on Penal Affairs—a quango casualty in the slaughter of the innocents—I have been waiting for some reassurance from the Government, but in vain.

One assumes the Secretary of State will appoint ad hoc committees on specific subjects as required. This surely is going to involve the loss of a powerful source of advice. The advantage of the ACPA lay not only in its ability to deal with subjects referred to it by the minister; there was the further advantage that its range of experience and knowledge enabled it to initiate research and make proposals on subjects of its own choosing as, for example, does the Law Commission. I hope very much the Government will think again.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN FAIRN,
Lewender Cottage,
82 Faines Lane,
Pinner,
Middlesex.

Without a word

From Miss B. Mathias
Sir, Mr Walters (February 23) casts some doubt over the criteria used in selecting the titles which appear in the National Book League calendar 1980. Besides being unable to read the text which appears in all four of the top ten titles, he does not regard a picture book as a legitimate piece of writing. I am sure that our picture book writers and illustrators, including the one whose book is number 3 on that list, would not agree with him.

I would hasten to draw to his attention the fact that it is a best-seller list aimed at the trade and based solely on sales figures. There will still be books in 1984 Mr Walters, for those who believe in them, and that would appear to be a fair proportion of the general public.

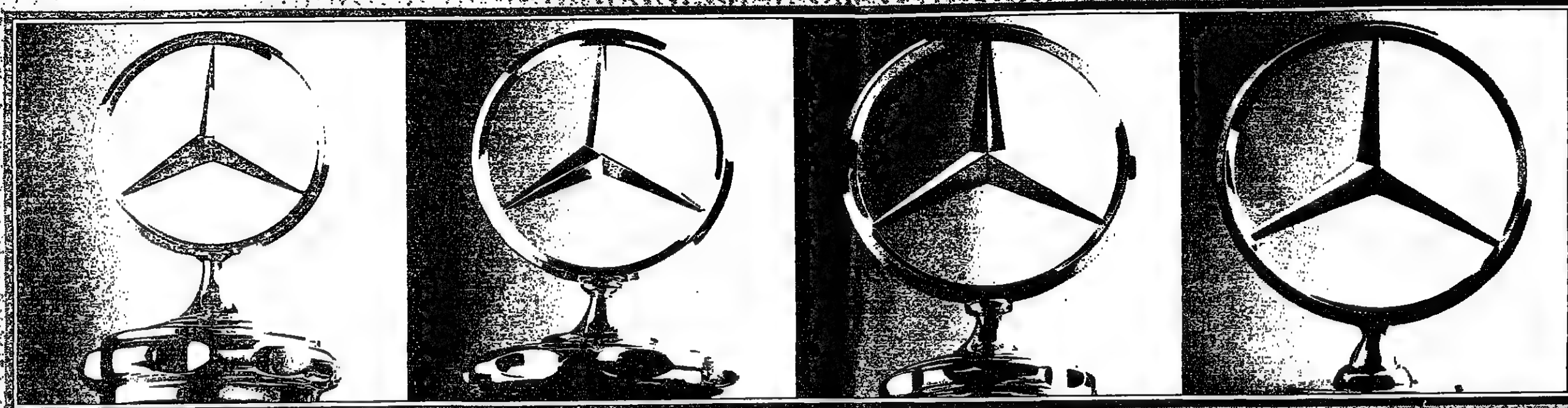
Yours faithfully,
BEVERLEY MATHIAS,
Children's Books Officer,
The National Book League,
7 Albemarle Street, W1,
February 25.

Counter point

From Mr J. R. Tyrie
Sir, I believe it was Sir Thomas Beecham who defined a musician as someone who can read music but cannot hear it. Perhaps one should now add someone who can read a programme note and understand it.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. TYRIE,
John Tyrie & Co. Ltd.,
Boundary House,
7-17 Jewry Street, EC3,
February 25.

OVER THE YEARS, MERCEDES-BENZ HAVE MADE SOME CHANGES TO THEIR ORIGINAL DESIGN



1926

Car design may have undergone some changes over the years, but the star on a Mercedes-Benz has never followed short-lived fashions.

Ever since 1926, the star has represented the ambitions of the two men who invented the car.

Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz who forty years before had, unknown to each other, both proved that high-speed petrol engines were capable of powering road vehicles.

The name Mercedes belonged to the daughter of the then Austro-Hungarian consul-general who entered his 23 h.p. Daimler in a race which he easily won.

Many more racing successes followed and the name Mercedes very soon became established as the name for all Daimler cars.

Scarcely a decade had passed since the invention of the motorised vehicle before Daimler and Benz wished to regularly test and compare their new vehicles in racing competitions and rallies.

Racing competitions tested the vehicles' speed

1951

and overall performance, rallies tested construction and endurance over long distances.

Their aim was to test the basic features of design in order to build a car that was suitable for every road condition and every traffic situation.

To design a car that would be equally at home in the northern hemisphere or at the equator, on made-up or unmade roads.

Since 1926, when the firms of Daimler and Benz joined together, their aims have gradually been fulfilled.

Over the last fifty-four years Mercedes-Benz have been developing increased engine performance, easier handling, practical comfort and greater safety for the driver and passengers in the event of an accident.

In 1951, for example, Mercedes-Benz were the first to design the safety cell, a rigid compartment with collapsible crumple zones at the front and rear of the car.

The combination of passive safety with active safety is, in itself, a symbol of Mercedes-Benz.

1968

Passive safety helps to avoid injuries in the event of an accident, and active safety gives the driver all possible help to avoid just that sort of situation in the first place.

In 1968, for example, we saw the development by Mercedes-Benz of the semi-trailing swing rear axle.

It was a simple system to ensure maximum road-holding, especially when you are braking and cornering, while maintaining all the benefits of independent suspension.

It was yet another example of Mercedes-Benz continuing to research and develop, and to refine the concept of the motorised vehicle.

Yet another attempt to reach technical perfection, as is every improvement made by Mercedes-Benz.

And that's exactly what the star represents on every Mercedes-Benz you see on the roads in the 1980's.



Mercedes-Benz

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

LEGGE 5-LEVER SECURITY LOCKS

Get some real protection from LEGGE

LEGGE 5-LEVER SECURITY LOCKS

Get some real protection from LEGGE

Stock markets

FT Ind 460.4 up 6.8
FT Gilts 65.31 down 0.27

Sterling

\$2.2875 up 1.10 cent
Index 73.2 up 0.3

Dollar

Index 86.1 unchanged

Gold

\$642.50 up \$2.5

Money

3-month sterling 17.18
3-month Euro-S 16.162
6-month Euro-S 16.162

OECD chief calls for restraint over threat of steel clash

From Peter Hill
Paris, Feb 27

Attempts to avert a damaging trade war, were made here today with a thinly veiled appeal to the United States to refrain from initiating anti-dumping action against European and Japanese steel products.

Urging the need for an international and cooperative approach in dealing with the problems confronting the world steel industry, Mr. Emile van Lennep, Secretary General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), said the industry was passing through a difficult transition period.

"It is essential that there is greater mutual understanding between trading partners and that a proper balance of policies is pursued," he said, "so that restraint is needed to avoid recourse to new or more restrictive trade measures, even if this appears legitimate in terms of international trade rules."

His plea came at the opening session of a two-day symposium on the industry's problems organized by the OECD, but given new significance by the US Steel Corporation's threat to file anti-dumping submissions with American government agencies.

The threat has strained relations between the United States and the EEC, and has prompted a hectic round of high-level diplomatic meetings. If the submissions go ahead, European steelmakers could be faced with a halving of the five million tonnes of steel exports to the United States this year at a cost of about \$400m which would lead to further cutbacks in the industry.

American imports are presently controlled by a system of "trigger prices" and new price levels are likely to be revealed next week, according to Mr. Luther Rodges, the United States' Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

The level at which they are set will be a major factor in deciding whether or not US Steel, and others, go ahead with their case, according to Mr. Lewis Foy, chairman of Bethlehem Steel.

Belgium joins interest rates 'war'

By Caroline Atkinson

The latest move in an international interest rate "war" came yesterday with a 13 point rise in Belgium's discount rate to a record 12 per cent, effective from today. The West German Federal Bank is expected to raise its Lombard rate at today's meeting of the council, and the Dutch are predicted to be planning a rate increase. Japan too is likely to follow a similar point rise in its discount rate last week by pushing the rate higher.

The Belgian action was taken largely to bolster the sinking franc, which has been threatening to slip out of the bottom

of the European monetary system. It had been discounted already by the market and the franc had benefited.

A rise in the American discount rate 10 days ago has triggered off a worldwide rise in interest rates. It has strengthened the dollar against other currencies such as the yen, Deutsche mark and Swiss franc. The authorities in these countries are unhappy about seeing too big a drop in their exchange rates.

The German bond market remained very weak yesterday, with average yields on all maturities rising. German bankers expect the Fed-

eral bank to raise the discount and Lombard rates by 1 per cent against the dollar and the yen by 5 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. This would only bring them in line with market rates.

The yen has been the weakest currency against the dollar and the Japanese are anxious to stop it from falling too far. The Bank of Japan is expected to raise its officially controlled bank deposit rates by between 1 and 1.5 per cent, according to the Federation of Bankers Association. A further rise in the discount rate, though probably desirable for the yen, is thought unlikely yet.

Mr Lacey may bid for whole of Lonrho

By Philip Robinson

Mr Graham Lacey's attempt to buy 19 per cent of Lonrho from Gulf Fisheries has been delayed for the third time and has sparked City speculation that he could be putting a package together to bid for the entire group.

No further announcement is expected for 30 days after a meeting between Mr Lacey and Sheikh Nasser, who controls Gulf Fisheries, on Monday.

It is understood that no problems have arisen over the 19 per cent holding, but a much more ambitious plan is now being formulated. A spokesman for Mr Lacey said last night: "There are no problems, but talks are continuing. No announcement is expected for 30 days."

Speculation pushed Lonrho's price up 7p to 105p yesterday, which would give it a market price tag of £262.5m.

The 19 per cent stake, if the market price was paid, would cost Mr Lacey around £42.5m. He has announced he plans to buy the stake through an as yet unnamed private American company which he controls. He has already given a reference to Gulf Fisheries, which says it is satisfied he can find the money.

In the City, conclusions are being drawn from a recent statement by Mr Lacey—known for taking strategic stakes and then requesting a seat on the board—that he does not want to join the present Lonrho board.

Meanwhile, Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive, has spent a further £340,000 of his own cash to buy 350,000 shares at 97.23p a share, bringing his personal holding in the company to 26 million shares, 12.3 per cent of the equity.

He now controls the voting rights in just under 15 per cent of the Lonrho shares, including five million shares of Mr Daniel K. Ludwig, reportedly the world's richest man, with whom Lonrho struck a \$0.50 deal over Bermuda hotels group Princess Properties International.

The move is being seen by some as the first of a number of defensive moves. Mr Rowland is already on record as saying that he would like to turn Lonrho into a private company.

He said yesterday: "I bought this parcel of shares because it was offered to me at a price and I intend buying more if the opportunity arises. Why shouldn't I?"

"I would encourage Mr Lacey to make a bid for the group... if he can pull it off. The last time Mr Lacey and I met was two years ago over something else. I haven't seen him since and I don't know whether he can raise £4p, let alone £40m."

"And if he's actually got the stake, why doesn't he come out with some announcement? If he can put together a consortium to bid for us, why doesn't he bid for us?"

Mr Rowland added: "Mr Ludwig and I are personal friends. We talk almost daily about Lonrho. The Princess deal will not be the last."

The 30-day delay in Mr Lacey's announcement will take it past the Lonrho annual meeting on 8th of March at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London.

But sparks could fly without him. It is understood that Gulf Fisheries—if it is still owner of the shares by then—is not happy about the Lonrho resolution to increase the authorised share capital by creating a further 40 million shares, lifting the authorised share capital from £62.5m to £72.5m.

It is understood that there are still 28 million shares available to be issued, and the argument is likely to be that, with no plans in the pipeline, there is no obvious reason to increase the number of authorised shares.

Investors cautious on Treasury £800m offer

Applications for the Government's latest gilt edged offering, £800m of Treasury 14 per cent 1996, were relatively light yesterday.

All applications were allowed in full at the minimum tender price of 231 per cent.

Many investors are taking a cautious view ahead of the budget. They are keen to see how the present domestic monetary squeeze resolves itself and how much higher interest rates are likely to rise.

The market is now waiting to see if the Bank of England will announce a further deferral in the scheduled recall of special deposits.

Financial Editor, page 21
Markets, page 4

GKN buys US stake

GKN, Britain's biggest engineering group, has bought 80 per cent of the Worldparts Division of the Maremont Corporation of Chicago for an undisclosed sum. Worldparts, which distributes motor parts and accessories, has turnover of \$25m (£10.9m).

IMF rebuff

Signor Filippo Maria Pandolfi, Italian Treasury Minister and president of the International Monetary Fund's interim committee, made his first stop in Madrid as part of a globe trotting effort to sell the idea of gold as a new reserve asset to key EMU member countries. There was an immediate rebuff from San José Ramon Alvarez, the Spanish Central Bank governor.

\$132m order for UK

Balfour Beatty and Edmund Nutall, Sons and Co have been awarded a contract to build a \$132m (about £58m) hydroelectric power project in Sri Lanka under the Mahaveli River basin development scheme.

French inflation up

French inflation is expected to rise to an annualized 13 per cent in first half 1980, compared with 11.8 per cent in 1979, the national statistics institute said in Paris. It forecasts a French half deficit of 15,000m francs (about \$15.13m) largely caused by the higher cost of energy and raw material imports.

Iran project resumes

Technicians from a Japanese consortium have arrived in Iran to resume work on the \$300m (about £132m) petrochemical project at Bandar Khomeini in southern Iran. Construction halted last March on the joint Japanese-Iranian venture in which Mitsui has a 50 per cent stake.

German deficit

Soaring prices of oil drove West Germany's trade with Arab countries into a deficit of 1,200m Deutsche marks (about £302m) last year after a surplus of 3,000m Deutsche marks in 1978.

Loan to Turkey

The European Investment Bank has announced in Luxembourg a loan of 75 million units of account (about £47.5m) to Turkey for lignite mining and building a power station.

Iran assets stay safe in Switzerland

Berne, Feb 27.—United States banks in Switzerland have not so far blocked any Iranian funds as Swiss authorities are aware.

President Carter's order to American banks last November to freeze Iranian funds all over the world could have no legal effect in Switzerland, the Swiss government said in a written parliamentary reply in Bern.

Neither the federal banking commission nor the Swiss national bank knew of any cases of Iranian funds in Switzerland being blocked by branches or subsidiaries of United States banks, it said.

The government intended to take no action over the affair, adding that it was up to civil courts to rule on any litigation. Caroline Atkinson writes: In contrast, branches of United States banks in London and Paris in particular have implemented the presidential freeze on Iranian assets. Lawyers acting for the Iranians have apparently decided that their case is best pursued through the courts in London and Paris.

There has been widespread criticism in European banking circles of the United States action in blocking Iran's assets. The repercussions in the banking world have, on the whole, been less than feared. This is partly because non-American bankers, in some cases including central banks, went out of their way to reassure Iran, and more particularly other Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries members, that they abhorred the idea of freezing assets and intended to carry on business

Polish ship orders expected to build up losses of £40m

By John Huxley

British Shipbuilders expects to make a loss of £40m on its controversial deal to supply Poland with bulk carriers, but the state-owned corporation remains confident that total losses this year will be within the government target of £100m. MPs were told, however, that yards were now being served of investment capital and the corporation's relationship with Government was "an unsatisfactory mismatch".

Mr John Parker, the board member for merchant shipping, blamed part of the cost escalation of the Polish deal on delays at Clydebank and Dundee yards. Half of the ships were being built at yards scheduled for closure under the restructuring plan, he told a parliamentary Select Committee yesterday.

This was "not exactly a mismatch" to the workforce to complete the ships.

The £115m Polish deal attracted subsidies of £28m (not included in the present estimate of losses) when it was agreed in 1977. It was heavily criticised at the time.

Orders for individual ships had to be relocated after an industrial dispute at Swan Hunter, one of the original recipients of work. The order was also held up by delays in the early stages by late arrival of parts.

MPs heard yesterday that losses were being made on each merchant ship built, not only by British Shipbuilders but probably by other yards industrialized countries would be little changed at about 560 million tonnes, but developing countries were likely to expand their steelmaking capacity to 120m tonnes by 1985.

order won added to losses. However, it made sense to recoup some of the cost of preserving shipbuilding capability, and the deal was profitable in the future.

Mr Maurice Elderfield, board member for finance, said that the corporation would be within its £100m loss limit for 1979-80, but not well within.

A loss of £32m was reported in December for the first half year.

He added that much would still depend upon changes in market conditions and unpredictable factors such as currency fluctuations. Japan, the world's largest shipbuilder and the price leader, had benefited from a 25 per cent effective devaluation of the yen against the pound last year.

Admiral Griffin, who is due to step down as chairman in March, was asked whether the corporation would be working on a commercial basis in 16 months' time, as requested by the Government. He said this had not been clearly defined, but added that no such guarantee could be given.

Mr Michael Casey, chief executive, said there was a reasonable chance that the market would return to equilibrium in 1981, allowing shipbuilders to recover costs through prices. British Shipbuilders was being restructured in line with present market estimates, but with sufficient flexibility to expand capacity to meet the expected upturn in demand.

Merchant shipbuilding capacity was being reduced from 630,000 compensated gross registered tonnes (cgrt) in 1977 to 400,000 cgrt, and employment from 38,000 to about 18,000 by mid-1980. The corporation esti-

mates that this represents a target order book of 45 ships—so far, orders for 26 have been received.

If added to the core is being starved of investment, Mr Elderfield told MPs that government-imposed limits have "severely limited investment to a damaging extent."

Available cash was being spent on health and safety improvements and the replacement of worn-out assets. The corporation would like to spend about £50m a year more on modernization, aimed at securing improved productivity. Spending on fixed assets last year was £28m.

Admiral Griffin said British Shipbuilders would like to build more covered yards and introduce improved workshop and hand tools. He pointed to increased spending on automatic controls for Britain's competitors, especially Japan.

The chairman also criticized the present role of the Department of Industry in its relationship with his industry. The department was essentially slow moving and took no risks, creating an "unsatisfactory mismatch" with the shipbuilding industry.

Unless processing of orders into contracts was speeded up, the corporation did not expect to place orders for the construction of new ships. This was partly because of delays in approving advances in Brussels and elsewhere which, Mr Elderfield said, had actually caused British Shipbuilders to lose orders.

MPs also heard that credit terms offered by competitors were substantially better. Mr Elderfield complained: "Great Britain is the only country in



Mr John Parker: Yard closures "no stimulant" to workers to complete Polish deal.

the European Community which plays the game according to the rules."

The generosity of credit packages offered by competitors caused great frustration in the corporation. In some cases, it had to place orders for ships, earning money from the use of their ships before they had to begin paying for them.

Admiral Griffin said the corporation had been embarrassed by the Ministry of Defence's failure to place orders for ships, which were "confidently expected".

MPs heard that attempts were being made to improve productivity, although the introduction of two and three shift working to make more efficient use of existing capital was not feasible. The strike record of employees was excellent and the number of hours lost due to stoppages in 1979 only one-third the national average.

Gold rush boost for Johnson Matthey

By Peter Weinwright

A forecast of riches from the boom in precious metals came yesterday from Johnson Matthey, the £140m group of refiners of gold and other precious metals, bankers and chemists in which De Beers and Mr Harry Oppenheimer's far-flung mining enterprises which was recently used to seize a 25 per cent stake in Consolidated Gold Fields.

Johnson's financial year runs to the end of March, and in the first nine months (to December 31) the group used gold prices of £14.45m to £20.19m. Sales climbed from £282.38m to £542.93m. The actually fell from £7.06m to £6.55m, and earnings a share soared from 22.5p to 33.5p, expressed on an annual basis.

Johnson has also decided that it need no longer provide £25.19m for deferred tax which will never pay, and it has used most of the money to increase reserves by nearly £16m. Precious metal stocks are

now valued at £37.8m against £31.7m, and net assets as a whole rose from £166.4m to £208.5m.

These figures only hint at the scale of profits Johnson has yet to report because its commission income goes up with the price of the metals it treats. And gold only began its sudden ascent last autumn after spending most of last year at around \$400 an ounce. It went to \$460 by Christmas before powering, early in January, to \$630.

It surged to \$755 in mid-January and the eventually peaked at \$835 with dealers predicting \$1,000 on January 18. That signalled the end of the panic, but at last night's close of \$642.5, Johnson is still comfortably ahead of last year's levels. It is also prospering from silver, and platinum whose prices have been rising.

Johnson Matthey's industrial interests are inevitably overshadowed by the precious metals boom, but they are growing.

The group has a growing role in potentially exciting areas such as fuel cells, anti-cancer drugs, and cold print transfers.

Car sales pick up

New car sales in Australia recovered in January after a sharp fall in December, according to preliminary estimates issued by the statistics bureau.

Italy's reserves drop

Italy's net official reserves dropped slightly in December falling by 204,000 lire (about £13m) from November, the Bank of Italy reports.

Sit-in at Airfix plant to go on

By R. W. Shakespear

The dismissed workers who have been occupying the Airfix Industries' Macclesfield and Winkley Toys factory in Liverpool for the past three months yesterday decided to continue their sit-in beyond today's deadline set by the company. Fewer than 300 of the original labour force of 940 attended the meeting at which the decision was taken.

Airfix says that more than 800 of the workers—most of whom are women—have now accepted redundancy payments which range from about £450 to £5,000. Most seem ready to comply with the company's condition that they should take no further part in the sit-in.

The firm said that since the plant was closed at two hours' notice in November, almost all of the former shop stewards have accepted redundancy payments.

Yesterday's meeting of the sit-in was the action committee which has been leading the sit-in said: "There are still enough of us left determined to carry on the fight."

Airfix also announced some workers that it would take no action about the sit-in until after today when the statutory 90 days' notice period runs out. But it has indicated that it would be applying for a court order for possession.

Apology over Lloyd's Sasse statement

By Richard Allen, Insurance Correspondent

Mr Peter Green, chairman of Lloyd's, has apologized to Lord Napier and Eddick, a member of the stricken Sasse underwriting syndicate, for any "embarrassment" that may have been caused by a public statement on the Sasse affair issued last September.

The apology contained in a letter written earlier this month resolves a row which has been simmering beneath the surface of the Sasse dispute since last September.

Lord Napier, who is private secretary to Princess Margaret, is among 29 members of the Sasse syndicate who are currently suing Lloyd's and disputing their liabilities in respect of a substantial part of losses totalling more than £20m.

In his letter to Lord Napier, Mr Green describes the Sasse affair as a most unfortunate, distressing and distasteful disaster.

The personal dispute involving Lord Napier centred on a press release issued by Lloyd's last September, which stated that Lloyd's had commenced legal proceedings seeking a declaration as to the legal obligations of those members of the Sasse syndicate who have indicated a reluctance to comply.

Lord Napier took exception to the suggestion that he was reluctant to comply with legal obligations. Through solicitors, he pointed out that the call payments he was reluctant to discharge were those that he could not legally be called upon to make.

Major parts of the court action by Lord Napier and other syndicate members centre on what they see as illegal aspects of the way loss-making business was introduced to the Sasse syndicate.

In his letter Mr Green points out that his major concern last September was in ensuring that Lloyd's met its annual audit.

The letter says: "By a Telex to Waltons & Morse our solicitors, we were left in no doubt that Clifford-Turner (solicitors) on behalf of a group of named (underwriting) members of whom you were one intended to start proceedings to prevent the completion of the audit. As I told you, by some speedy footwork Lloyd's won the race to the Law Courts by a short head."

He adds: "I apologize if our actions did cause you embarrassment and assure you that it was not intended."

A spokesman for Lord Napier said that Mr Green's explanation and apology had been accepted.

First meeting on EEC consumer affairs programme Kings of the Castle review their Euro-subjects

While the rest of the Irish Republic pondered the prospects of a painful Budget yesterday, Dublin Castle, that former bastion of British rule, was given over to a grand exercise in Euro-democracy.

In St Patrick's Hall, a luxurious annex to the throne room from which the British once administered Ireland, 27 European MPs and a host of international businessmen and consumerists gathered for a two-day hearing on the EEC consumer affairs programme.

While its impact on Dublin life was minimal, the meeting broke new ground in publicizing the running of the Community's affairs and highlighted the polarity of current views on consumer legislation.

The programme proposes such controversial areas as product liability and legal controls over advertising, and in Dublin the consumer delegations expanded the day's debate to cover the creation of a European price commission, a notion which was greeted with horror.

Mr Roger Underhill, director general of the Advertising Association, who was one of the international Chamber of Commerce delegation, summed up their opposition when he said: "In the long run the consumer is best served by a free economy by the influence of competition in fixing prices."

The MP's delegation split evenly in its support, with the Left behind the consumers and the Right applauding the British point of view.

The hearing was chaired by Mr Kenneth Collins, Scottish Labour Euro-MP who now hopes to arrange similar hearings in other parts of the Community.

"The meeting has been a continuation of open government," he said. "We feel a need to open up the Community to make the whole business of Community decision-making a constant dialogue with the public."

Dr John O'Connell, Dublin Labour Euro-MP, who as rapporteur will write the draft report on consumer legislation for the European Parliament, said the hearing's 125,000 words of evidence would help to shape the Community's eventual consumer affairs policy.

His report is due out this summer and the Parliament intends to have it considered before the end of the year.

The EEC's last consumer programme, in 1975 was scrapped by Inaction at Council Ministers level. But yesterday's hearing received a commitment from Mr Richard Burke, the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs that the Parliament's new report would receive serious attention.

Dr O'Connell dropped two broad hints yesterday of what his report would contain. He spoke in favour of the appointment of a European director-general of consumer affairs and the creation of a consultative committee on products and prices, both of which did nothing to quell the business



Mr Roger Underhill: opposition to European price commission.

delegations' belief that consumerism's star showed no sign of waning.

David Hewson

Forecast of slowdown in German economy

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Feb 27

The Munich-based IFO Economic Research Institute today gave a warning that recent strong growth in the West German economy could give way to stagnation and possibly decline in the course of this year.

In what must be the gloomiest economic forecast produced in Germany since the oil price rises of last year, IFO predicted an increase in unemployment from the end of spring, problems for the authorities in combating inflation, a continuing high budget deficit, and a further deterioration in the country's current account balance of payments position.

Although the detailed forecasts published by the institute would be welcomed as overwhelmingly positive in most western countries, they represent a marked downward revision of the German government's own economic targets published less than a month ago.

The institute is not forecasting gain. But it says that most of this growth will be accounted for by a statistical overhang

from 1979 and that in the course of the year, real GNP, on a seasonally-adjusted basis, will first stagnate and could possibly fall.

The unemployment figures are expected to show a similar trend. Although the average unemployment rate should rise only marginally by some 24,000 persons to 3.9 per cent of the working population (or 900,000) from 3.8 per cent last year, IFO expects the actual number of jobless could be 150,000 higher at the end of 1980 than at the end of December, 1979.

The oil price increases are expected to frustrate the government's efforts to control inflation, resulting in an average consumer price rise of 5 per cent in 1979, and should lead to a marked worsening of Germany's current account balance of payments deficit. The institute forecasts a current account deficit of around DM23,000m this year which is somewhat higher than the Government's forecast of DM20,000m and runs at a half times last year's deficit of DM9,000m.

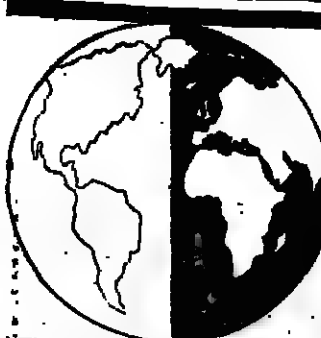
PRICE CHANGES

Rises		
Bank Leumi Isrl	1p to 10p	
Western Mines	17c to 480c	
Bank St Bureau	8p to 72p	
Plasid	1p to 5p	
Hampton Gold	30p to 335p	

Falls		
ACB Research	8p to 165p	
Autodrive	1p to 8p	
Hardman K. O.	1p to 81p	
Brown & Jackson	8p to 182p	
Burns	6p to 240p	

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
Australia \$	2.12	2.05
Canada \$	30.00	28.50
Denmark Kr	70.00	66.50
France Fr	2.58	2.61
Germany DM	12.97	12.43
Italy Lira	8.90	8.



German recycling creates 1,300 jobs

The recycling business is booming in West Germany, creating new jobs and saving the country millions of marks.

According to officials in Bonn, West Germany leads the European Economic Community in the recycling of waste glass, paper and metal. The most spectacular growth has been in the reuse of old glass, which has led to 1,300 extra jobs.

In 1978, with the help of the public, 410,000 tonnes of old glass was collected at about 15,000 collection points. As a result, the substitution of used glass for new in the making of glass containers rose in 1979 to 15 per cent of the total, as against 5 per cent in 1974.

Recycling also saved at least 85,000 tonnes of oil, and other raw materials such as soda and lime.

Brazil backs controls

Brazil is determined to continue its traditional policy of wage indexation and price control while containing inflation.

Senator Antonio Delim Neto, the Brazilian planning minister, expects wages to increase to match inflation, but will be held to a maximum 45 per cent this year. Prices will also be controlled.

Hongkong's growth

Mr Philip Hadden-Cave (above), the Hongkong Financial Secretary, said in his budget that the Colony's gross domestic product growth is estimated at a preliminary 11.5 per cent compared with a forecast of 7 per cent, and 10 per cent in 1978. The 1979 GDP at current prices is \$1,887,350m (\$7,865m), 26.4 per cent higher than 1978.

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Mitsui ship orders

Mitsui Engineering and Shipbuilding Co. has won orders estimated at \$9,000m (about £16m) from two Norwegian shipping firms to build two 62,000-deadweight-ton bulk carriers for Thorvald A/S, and the other a 38,000-ton bulk carrier for A/S Billaborg.

Indonesian oil well

Pertamina, the Indonesian state-owned oil company, says a new well in Kalimantan oil field in the West Java Sea, just off Sumatra is flowing at the rate of 8,779 barrels a day.

Need for exports

Sweden cannot expect its gross national product to rise more than an average three per cent in the years to 1985, Mr Gösta Bohman, the economics minister says in Stockholm. A growing share of GNP must go to exports to restore economic balance.

US productivity fall

Productivity in the United States private business sector declined in the fourth quarter from the third quarter at a 0.6 per cent seasonally adjusted annual rate that was slower than the initially estimated 1.6 per cent rate of drop.

China crude price up

China has told Japanese oil refiners that the price of its Tachung crude oil would be raised by \$7.25 a barrel to \$33.20 a barrel retroactive to February 1, industry sources say. The price was last raised to \$32.25 on January 1.

Union claim

The West German Banking and Insurance Trade Union is calling for a 10.6 per cent rise for its 200,000 members, including a basic 8.6 per cent wage rise and Christmas and holiday bonuses.

Kuwait's revenues

Kuwait's revenues from oil and gas in the year ending June 30, 1979 amounted to about \$14,000m (\$5,467m), 28 per cent higher than the previous year, the Kuwait central bank reports in its latest quarterly bulletin.

Steel output down

Canadian steel ingot output totalled 339,511 tons in the week ended February 23, off 3.3 per cent from 351,199 tons the previous week, but up 0.7 per cent from 337,272 tons a year earlier, according to Statistics Canada in Ottawa.

Jamaica's energy plan

Mr Horace Clark, Jamaica's energy minister, has announced plans to reduce oil imports by 10 per cent this year and stimulate the use of other energy sources. Jamaica spent \$310m (about £137m) on oil imports last year and the estimated figure for 1980 is over \$490m.

Producing countries get together in attempt to stabilize soaring prices

Stemming troubles in the tin trade

Seven leading tin-producing countries, which provide more than 80 per cent of the world's tin, met in the Thai resort town of Chiang Mai this month to establish their positions in negotiations next month for the sixth international tin agreement in Geneva.

The seven—Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, Nigeria, Zaire and Bolivia—have not always seen eye to eye, or with the consumers led by the United States, on how to bring about stable tin prices. But informed sources noted only a number of potentially divisive issues.

Tin prices have not been stable for the past two decades and industry sources point to unexpected releases from the strategic stockpile and the ineffectiveness of the buffer stock pool held by the International Tin Council (ITC).

The price continues to move upwards, in keeping with the general speculative move into commodities. There are already indications of Arab speculative interest in tin, copper and natural rubber along with gold and silver, according to informed market sources.

The United States has indicated that it would release 35,000 tons from its strategic stockpile—5,000 tons into the ITC buffer stock and the balance released in the marketplace at 10,000 tons a year for three years—so as not to disrupt the market and to make a maximum profit for the stockpile itself. But the announcement put a damper on the market.

Tin production has been curbing off in recent years though it has picked up again as prices reached a level high enough to bring the marginal producers back. But a stockpile release upsets prices

and this was underscored by the Bolivian delegate in Chiang Mai demanding that United States releases ought to be made only after consulting them—an understandable sentiment from a country which depends on tin for 75 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings.

The major divergence between producers and consumers has been over the range at which the buffer stock would intervene to keep tin prices stable. Both contribute to the buffer stock, although it is voluntary for the consumers, while the buffer stock manager buying when the price hits the lower end of the range and selling when it hits the higher.

But there are only 20,000 tons to play with, and a rundown in stocks just before it hits the ceiling only encourages further speculative activity to push prices even higher. The producers want compulsory consumer contributions to increase the buffer stock, but there is resistance to this.

Under the fifth agreement, the buffer stock range was fixed between 1,500 and 1,950 Malaysian dollars (£300 to £370) a picul (a Malaysian measurement of weight equaling 133 lbs). At the meeting of producers in Jakarta last year, it was suggested that this ought to be revised upwards to between 1,850 and 2,400 Malaysian dollars a picul, but last week's price is already near the upper level of this suggested range.

Danuk Paul Leong, the Malaysian primary industries minister, suggests that the buffer stock range ought to be high enough to make it workable, though this is generally resisted by consumers. This is expected to be a tough bargaining point in the round-up to the sixth agreement, as would be the suggestion that the voting strengths under the tin agreement should

be revised to make it impossible for two or three consumer nations to veto a proposal, as can happen now.

The tin producers are also trying to persuade Brazil and China to join the tin agreement, though they have had little success so far. The Soviet Union, in contrast, is a signatory to the fifth agreement, although it does not take any part in keeping the agreement functioning. Its production of 25,000 tons is a potential threat to the market, but it is at the moment a net importer of 4,000 tons.

The tin producers, noting that the world has not realized the metal's strategic importance, have formed up plans for a secretariat to coordinate their views in negotiations with consumer countries of the ITC in London. This means that the London Contact Group would become a formal secretariat like the copper producers' secretariat in Paris.

The Chiang Mai meeting produced tentative agreement, but delegates took pains to point out that it was not the forerunner of a cartel. "It is merely an organization to coordinate our views and do initial research to help us in negotiating with the consumer countries", said one delegate. He added that the absence of this back-up already placed the group at a disadvantage when negotiating with, for instance, the United States.

The aim of the exercise is to maintain market stability, but there is an understandable fear that, if consumers do not come to terms with the producers, there could be a further upheaval in the market and industry.

M. G. G. Pillai
in Kuala Lumpur

Tough year ahead for valves and pumps sector

By Edward Townsend

Britain's pumps and valves industry, which controls 10 per cent of the world market, is facing a year of contraction as demand falls and imports to the domestic market increase.

The industry's sector working party (SWP) in its latest report to the National Economic Development Council says that order intake is poor and is likely to continue at a low level. "This represents a sudden change for an industry which had performed well, over a long period, compared with other mechanical engineering sectors."

The industry exported 38 per cent of its £635m of output in 1978 but now faces considerable uncertainty on overseas markets.

The SWP says that the consequences of the upheaval in Iran, the United Kingdom's biggest export market, are not yet quantified, but depressed demand for valves in many sectors with the decrease of home and overseas market shares, led to declining order intake and output.

Pumps have also been affected by the strength of sterling, the low level of demand from the water and power plant industries and temporary levelling off of demand in the Middle East.

The sector's total sales in 1978 increased by 13 per cent on 1977 but exports rose by only 7 per cent. Import penetration in the valve sector now exceeds 30 per cent although imports of pumps have slightly reduced. The report adds: "Whereas imports used to fill specific needs not met by home producers, there is now evidence of strong competition in many standard types of valve."

Objectives now set for the sector are to hold on to its 10 per cent world market share, contain imports to 20 per cent of British sales and to achieve an average growth rate of output of 5 per cent.

The SWP says that the United Kingdom is not alone in having to fight for markets. West Germany and the United States have both lost shares year by year in the 1970s and the countries that have benefited are France, Spain, Japan and Switzerland.

The current reduction in orders and sales is not resulting in an overall loss of jobs in the industry although in the past year numbers employed in the sector have fallen by 1,000 while the labour force in the pump sector has increased by a similar amount.

The SWP says that many companies have the capacity to increase output on present sales levels, but the shortage of certain skills is still a cause of great concern and likely to be a constraint on any substantial future upturn in business.

Pumps and Valves SWP Progress Report 1980, available free from NEDO Books, 1 Steele House, 11 Torrill Street, London, SW1H 9LJ.

Business appointments

New president for Engineering Employers

Mr Anthony Hampton, chairman of Record Ridgway, has been elected president of the Engineering Employers' Federation.

Mr M. C. Davis has been appointed chairman of the board of Hogg Robinson Overseas.

Sir Alan Davis, chairman of Barmouth Oil, is joining the board of Reed International.

Mr E. F. Hillman and Sir Keith Skinner have been appointed directors of Reed International.

Mr Hillman is a deputy chairman of Reed Group with responsibility for packaging operations. Sir Keith Skinner is a director of International Publishing Corporation, chairman and chief executive of IPC Business Press.

Mr R. A. Barberis has been

Former science minister backs Canadian nuclear reactor

By Nicholas Hirst

Energy Correspondent

Lord Bowden, former Labour Minister of State for Education and Science, yesterday added to the weight of evidence in favour of Britain considering a Canadian-designed nuclear reactor in place of either the British or American types.

A former principal of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Lord Bowden was appearing before the Parliamentary select committee on energy, and put forward figures which showed that the Canadian-designed Candu reactor had outperformed either the American pressurized water reactors, which Britain intends to try out, or the British designed gas cooled systems.

His evidence complemented

that of Sir Alan Cottrell at the previous week's hearing, who had promoted the Candu reactor against the PWR on safety grounds. If cracks were discovered in a Candu, Sir Alan told the committee, the cracked tube could be replaced and the reactor could continue in service. Cracks appearing in a PWR pressure vessel presented a much greater technical problem.

Lord Bowden's memorandum downplayed the work done by the Parliamentary select committee on energy, and put forward figures which showed that the Canadian-designed Candu reactor had outperformed either the American pressurized water reactors, which Britain intends to try out, or the British designed gas cooled systems.

The British Government is now committed to building a PWR of the Westinghouse type for the United Kingdom and a public inquiry passed. Lord Bowden believed that before a final commitment to a new reactor system was made, the Candu should be assessed.

Employment Gazette

British strike record much worse in 1979

By Caroline Atkinson

Britain's strike record until 1978 compared favourably with other industrialized countries, a study in the Department of Employment Gazette today suggests. The figures for labour cost per unit of output suggest that companies are anxious to lay off workers as demand slackens.

In the economy as a whole, labour costs rose by 51 per cent between the second and third quarters of last year, nearly 18 per cent above the level of a year earlier. There was a similar rise of 71 per cent in manufacturing labour costs per unit of output in the third quarter.

The figures for January, 1980, also published yesterday, show the effect of the steel strike, with a huge jump in the number of working days lost to 2,692,000 from 115,000 in December. The number of stoppages beginning rose from 43 in December to 118 last month. The total strike toll in January was still below that of several months in 1979, even though it was above that of any month of 1978.

In the 1974-1978 period, eight countries out of the 19 examined had relatively high totals of working days lost than Britain. These included Canada and the United States, Italy and Australia. Ten countries had relatively fewer days lost than Britain including Germany, Japan, France and the Netherlands. Britain is certainly more strike-prone than other European countries, particularly those of the EEC.

Productivity slumped in the third quarter of last year in both manufacturing and production industries in Britain.

Output per worker in the economy as a whole dropped by 1.3 per cent between the second and third quarter of the year. This left the amount produced per worker just 1 per cent higher than a year earlier.

For manufacturing industry, the figures are even worse—productivity fell by nearly 4 per cent between April-June and July-September. Part of the reason for the drop was probably the engineering strike which cut output while

employment was little changed. It now seems as if a labour rethink in industry has begun, with unemployment rising sharply. The figures for labour cost per unit of output suggest that companies are anxious to lay off workers as demand slackens.

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employment was little changed. It now seems as if a labour rethink in industry has begun, with unemployment rising sharply. The figures for labour cost per unit of output suggest that companies are anxious to lay off workers as demand slackens.

Turnover

The number of people leaving their jobs appeared to be rising last year after a fall during 1978. There was a fall in the number of people engaged in manufacturing and engineering, but a rise in both layoffs and engagements as the economy expands and a fall in both as output slows or falls. The latest quarterly figures show a rise in the number of engagements and discharges—diverging.

Spending

In the first quarter of 1979, the average family had 2.71 members (of whom 1.31 were working) and spent £83.14 a week. Categories of spending were up on a year earlier. Food accounted for 23.9 per cent of the average weekly budget, with housing the second largest item at 14.9 per cent. Transport and vehicles took 13.6 per cent of the weekly budget.

Vacancies

Jobcentres are more successful at placing people in work than the employment offices which they replace. They place on average 43 of every 100 people who leave the dole queue for work. The proportion is not changed by the length of unemployment. In a typical month, the government creates 41 job interviews out of every 100 for those on the unemployment register.

Mr Michael Wardlaw has been appointed chairman of the board of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group. Lord Willis of Chilchurst has been appointed chairman of Newpenn, the Wadsworth-based manufacturer of OKO Type Scanners.

Mr Robin Hodgson, chairman of the Association of Licensed Dealers, has been appointed to the Council for the Securities Industry.

Mr Peter Brabrook has been appointed chairman of the board of the National Association of Bookshops and Managing Director of Odey Printing Group. Mr Lewis has been appointed as president of the group.

Mr Michael D. Hill has been appointed chief executive of both Bank of Ireland Finance (UK) and British Credit Trust.

Yen facing decline to new low

From Koji Nakamura

Tokyo, Feb 27

Japan faces the prospect of a further decline of the yen which is fast approaching the lowest level ever recorded. Financial sources here feel that its exchange rate of around 250 to the dollar this week may reach the 260 to the \$ in April.

They said an ever increasing deficit in the current account caused mainly by rising oil prices and other imported commodities would have a "severe impact" on the yen's value.

As a short-term measure, the central bank will continue participating in equalization operations to sustain the yen's value.

At the same time, the Bank of Japan is instituting measures designed to restrict the outflow and encourage the inflow of foreign money. During the past year, the foreign exchange holdings declined by more than \$10,000m to \$22,000m level in January this year.

Whatever measures are taken the dollar will remain strong as far as Japan is concerned. The sources said the dollar shortage would last "at least until autumn" and expressed doubts on the Government's ability to underpin the yen's value.

The recent rise in the official discount rate by 1 per cent (7.75 to 8.75 per cent since April) has proved largely ineffective. The proposed increases in fares in public utilities by some 50 per cent from April have also cast a shadow on consumer prices.

In the face of such odds, observers said, the downward trend of the yen was bound to continue for some time.

Orders up 10pc

Orders for rolled steel to the West German steel industry totalled 1,989 million tons in January, up 10.4 per cent from December and up 9.4 per cent from January, 1979, the Iron and Steel Industry Association reports.

Mr Peter S. Weinreb has been appointed by MSA to international operations, with responsibility for all MSA activities in Europe.

Mr W. G. Minter has been appointed a non-executive director of WGI (West-Group International).

Mr Peter Elliott has been appointed a director of Derek Black Contract Advertising.

Mr Robert J. Culverwell and Mr Len Meek have been appointed directors of Belsat International.

Mr Jack Pigeon has been appointed managing director of Goldcrest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keys to the success of ITV2—without ITV1 warfare

From Mr Donald Barker

Sir, Perhaps Mr Derek Bloom, of the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (February 27), should have been surprised if there is only belated recognition of the fact that the fourth television channel is going to make losses, not profits, in its initial stages.

Over a few weeks ago, ISBA was circulating to MPs a paper which claimed that the new service would be "self-supporting" from the word go, and that advertisers would therefore see little reason to involve the ITV contractors in the finances of the fourth channel.

The reading of the financial situation, which was in direct contradiction to the results of independent analytical surveys commissioned by the ITV companies and the ISBA, was made the basis of ISBA's case for the introduction of independent "sales agencies" to sell the air-time to advertisers on the new service. Many organizations, said ISBA, would "be

glad to take up the potentially

lucrative task."

Now that ISBA has recognised—belatedly—that the prospects of instant profitability on ITV Service 2 are a mirage, the case for the sales agencies is being presented from a different angle. According to Mr Bloom, the agencies would have a greater incentive than the existing ITV companies to maximize revenue by seeking out new sources of business in the marketplace. This is the reverse of the truth.

Independent sales agencies would be their very nature forced to pursue advertising revenue wherever they could find it, and they would be aware that it was available in greater volume among the established advertisers on ITV1 than on the minority-oriented Service 2. This would mean the start of the sort of advertising warfare which, as the Home Secretary has warned, must ultimately lead to warfare in programmes, with standards sacrificed to ratings.

As ISBA says in its paper:

"From our point of view the most important of all is competition in sales". The ITV companies, in contrast, would have every incentive to create new kinds of business. They have to pay for the new channel in any case, and they would be cutting their own throats if they did no more than draw advertising away from ITV1. The only way they can meet the additional cost of the second service without reducing their income is to open up new markets not tapped by ITV1. The surest means of achieving this is to develop areas of programming not yet available and to stimulate new tastes—the very purpose for which Service 2 is being brought into existence.

DONALD H. BARKER,
Executive of Broadcasting Policy Committee,
Independent Television Companies Association Limited,
Knights House,
52-66 Mortimer Street,
London W1N 8AN.

The occasional slip

From the General Secretary of The Brewers' Society

Sir, When you are delivering one million cases of bottled or canned beer every week of the year, it is inevitable that there may be an occasional slip "twixt dry and

Mr Christopher R. Elliott's estimate of the scale of the drops (Business News, February 21) is, however, grossly exaggerated. He is wrong also in suggesting that the traditional "bump" mats are no longer in use. They are carried on most drays, along with skids, ropes, chains and clamps and on many modern vehicles, there is also a fitted hoist. Draymen are specifically trained in the use

of all this equipment to prevent damage during unloading. There should be no accidental fall resulting in a pavement crack, the local authority and the brewery company concerned settle the matter. It is quite untrue to say that ratepayers have to pay the cost. It is, incidentally, the case that along with the disappearance of the nosebag, which Mr Elliott also noted, has gone the expense of cleansing the streets. That, Mr Elliott, must surely welcome as a clear saving to the rates!

R. L. MATTHEWS,
General Secretary,
The Brewers' Society,
42 Foreman Square,
London W1H 0BB.

By ship to Middle East

From Mr A. P. Peel Cross

Sir, I would like to comment on Mr Leighton's letter (February 20) which suggests that there is a 47 per cent cost penalty against British shippers to the Middle East compared with the Dutch companies.

Fixed rates of exchange are applicable to Holland and the United Kingdom and these are respectively 2.25 guilders and £0.55 equals \$1.

Taking these exchange rates and the higher basic freight rate into account, the current cost of a container from the United Kingdom is £1,438 compared with £1,252 from Holland—a difference of just under 15 per cent.

Yours faithfully,
A. P. PEEL CROSS,
27 Grosvenor Street,
London EC3A 1AE.

History's imports lesson

From Professor T. C. Barker

Sir, Mr Bowman (February 20) asks me how it was possible for the United Kingdom to import only about one-ninth the value of the manufactures it exported during the first decade of the present century when it had a deficit on merchandise trade.

The evidence of economic history is that, in fact, Mr Bowman's doubts are very relevant to a fuller understanding of our present economic troubles.

Yours faithfully,
T. C. BARKER,
London School of Economics,
University Street, WC2,
February 22.

Parliament and industry

From Mr Alan Eden-Green

Sir, May I make two comments on Malcolm Brown's encouraging piece about the Industry and Parliament Trust (February 19)? First that while our company members take a variety of opinions on the value of the trust, it is strictly non-partisan.

Second, you are right to ask: "Who will reach industrialists about politics?" The MPs, who are fellows of the trust, are a good deal of it in the course of their attachment, and we are planning a seminar

later this year for industrialists to hear all about Parliament—straight from the mouths of parliamentarians.

We are also considering the possibility of people being recruited for the industry to help MPs in their research, as suggested by Bruce George.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN EDEN-GREEN,
General Secretary,
Industry and Parliament Trust,
25 Victoria Street,
London, SW1H 0EX.

Spirit of cooperative enterprise

From Mr Peter Clarke

Sir, Some question marks were raised about cooperative enterprise (Letters, February 20). Cooperatives are the one ray of hope in the otherwise gloomy situation of British industry. I would suggest that the realization of the cooperative concept has a tremendous amount to offer this country and is worthy of more than cursory examination and unfriendly asides.

Beyond the newspaper headlines on the Tony Benn ventures, dubbed worker cooperatives, is a real success story of cooperative endeavour. The record of industrial cooperatives is at least as good as that of industry as a whole. Indeed, in terms of longevity, number of days lost in strikes and productivity, I would suggest that cooperatives are more successful than companies.

Business cooperatives are controlled by their members, who in the industrial context are almost always their workers (whether by hand or by brain). They are not for-profit organizations, firmly fixed within the country and not migrating abroad when troubles loom. A large-scale injection of these qualities into the British industrial structure would give it a welcome tonic. To suggest that it is not worth pursuing the cooperative concept because the existing industrial cooperative movement is small is circular reasoning.

It is quite wrong to suggest

Continental travel and green card

From the Secretary General of the British Insurance Association

Sir, Grouse (Personal Investment and Finance, February 16) said that "this month, thanks to ferry companies' special offers, the minimum charge for a green card has been more than one third of the cost of transporting the car and two passengers across the Channel and back".

What the article did not say is that the special offer is £2 so it can hardly be argued that the green card charge is an imposition on motorists.

A green card is essential because without it the policyholder will only have cover in accordance with the minimum legal requirements for third party insurance. In the case of an accident this cover could well prove inadequate.

Quite apart from the misleading comparison it is worth pointing out that the number of claims and their average cost is much higher across the Channel. Continental motorists often pay two or three times more for cover than their counterparts in this country.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Interest rate possibilities

With British interest rates so far ahead of the international game this winter, sterling has remained noticeably firm through the latest round of interest rate increases overseas. So it was, again yesterday, the pound's trade weighted index improving 0.3 to 73.2.

Meanwhile, the Belgians, with their currency still under pressure in the EMS, raised their discount rate and the market was speculating that the Bundesbank would take further action, perhaps today, to give another upward twist to German rates.

With further substantial tax payments due shortly, markets are expecting the Bank to announce a deferral of next week's planned recall of special deposits.

Stock relief

Steel strike complications

It can be more or less taken as read, after the Chancellor's speech to the Engineering Employers' Federation a couple of days ago, that the Budget will contain some provisions to ease the burden of corporation tax on those companies which would have benefited from stock relief had their stocks not been run down because of circumstances—such as the steel strike—entirely outside their control.

The question now, however, is whether the Chancellor will do any more to amend what has always been a fairly crude method of wiping out the tax on profit which, however tangible in the accounts, in reality do not exist.

The answer is complicated by the fact that the accountants, after years of intensive bickering on the subject, appear at last to be on the point of producing an accounting standard which—however imperfectly—will do the job.

Granted that the accountants may still turn the proposal down, and that in any case the inflation-adjusted statement is to be a supplementary to historic cost accounts for the moment, the timing is still absurd. It will be hard enough to spread the gospel on inflation-adjusted accounts anyway; it will be a lot harder if the important decisions on tax are still to be entirely based on the historic cost figures.

Goldfields

A question of safeguards

Two distinct issues were raised by the Consolidated Goldfields affair. The first—by far the most prominent at the time, because of the emphasis given to it by the Goldfields board—was the question of the safeguards, or lack of them, against the acquisition of substantial shareholdings in United Kingdom companies by anonymous overseas buyers. Since there is no requirement under United Kingdom company law for buyers to reveal if they are acting in concert on the purchase of anything less than the 30 per cent stake, at which a full bid would be triggered off under the rules of the Takeover Panel, it took the threat of a full-scale inquiry to flush De Beers out into the open.

But though the accumulation of a substantial stake by unknown buyers with unknown intentions is naturally a cause of anxiety to the management of a company, it is not necessarily so to its shareholders. What is, or should be, a cause of concern to them is the scope such a situation can provide for the creation of market conditions from which not all shareholders have equal opportunity to profit. It is to this second issue, amply demonstrated by the heights which Goldfields' shares reached when De Beers stood briefly in the market as buyer, and the depths to which they fell afterwards, that the Council for the Securities Industry is now turning its attention.

General Accident

Best of the bunch

Results from General Accident follow the pattern set by Commercial Union on Tuesday with a plunge into underwriting losses of £18.2m and currency movements reducing

overall profits by 4 per cent to £86.5m despite strong growth in investment income. There is a difference, however, GA has made profits on United States underwriting despite some deterioration in business. And hopes that the group's United States experience in the current year will not be nearly so bad as that of Royal and CU are supported by the news that the group has secured a 14 per cent auto rate increase in New Jersey.

Of the big three GA seems to be the only one to hold out prospects of recovery for the current year with profits of around £95m on the back of investment income. So it should enjoy the doubtful status of representing the least unpopular share of the trio.

At 226p, though, yielding 7.5 per cent—a discount of over 2 points on CU—it can be seen that the market has already taken the point.

BOC

Disturbing pointers

BOC has yet to weather really trying trading conditions so the first quarter drop to £12.4m pre-tax which it puts down chiefly to higher interest charges of £12.9m; extra depreciation of £1.6m; and adverse currency movements of another £1.5m, are disturbing pointers to how the group will fare when the recession starts to bite.

Geographically the main damage has come in the Americas where around £700,000 of the £1.3m downturn in trading profits to



Top BOC International men pictured yesterday: Mr Richard V. Giordano, group managing director (left) and Sir Leslie Smith, the chairman.

£10.7m is due to the dollar's weakness with the rest due to the absence of the Canadian Deloro's contribution now sold.

The back-dated wage settlement did not help the United Kingdom although higher gas prices have now been secured; and the group's long-term contracts with British Steel should help it escape the worst ravages of the steel strike.

With the recession still to be felt at Asico, it now looks as if BOC will be down on last year's £72.7m and the group may be under more pressure to sell peripheral businesses to avoid a rights issue. For the moment the 9.4 per cent yield at 64p is the only support.

Hoover

Holding the dividend

Hoover is justifying all those who said last year that it was a good recovery stock. For the year the group all but held its sales at £203.67m but saw profits dive from £5.3m to £1.2m, though exchange rate losses cost it £1.2m.

The parent, Hoover of Ohio must be pleased to have bought a few more shares some months ago at around 115p since the United Kingdom company has kept the dividend at 12p even though it was short-earned. The shares gained 15p to 145p yesterday, and Hooker UK is on the way back to profits of £5m to £6m, though the sub may be a dividend merely maintained to compensate for the decision to keep it this time.

Not long ago, Hoover had 30 per cent of the washing machine market and 50 per cent of the vacuum cleaner market; foreign competition has pressed the proportions down to 25 per cent and 40 per cent respectively. Real consumer spending this year will fall, but supply not demand is Hoover's problem. If it can get the balance right this time the shares, yielding 11.8 per cent, are worth staying with.

Economic notebook

But what if the Government's policy succeeds?

It is a measure of the credibility problem facing the Government on its economic strategy that all of the discussion at the moment is concentrated on the prospect for some form of U-turn. But what about the problems of success?

Let us suppose that we get through the next two bleak years during which the Government's policy will be to concentrate on cutting its borrowing requirements.

The present policy, almost certainly, involves falls in output both this year and next. We have all been well primed for a recession in 1980, but it is beginning to dawn only slowly that 1981 has all the makings of a very difficult year as well.

Industry's decline in competitiveness ought, by all the normal estimates of such things, to have a much greater effect on our exports next year than this. Investment seems likely to perform badly in response to low demand. And even if companies are prepared to struggle on using the equipment they have there is no incentive to buy more.

The squeeze on the corporate sector is likely to bankrupt some companies. Certainly we must expect to see some further shrinkage of our industrial base, either through the disappearance of large parts of some sectors, such as steel, or through a whittling away of companies in industries which are particularly vulnerable to foreign competition.

How does this relate to the situation which will exist in 1982, when the hope is that inflation will have come down far enough and the public sector borrowing requirement will be

the level of activity in the economy.

Arguments in favour of this view often refer to the experience of 1978 and 1979 when the economy was subjected to a demand stimulus through tax cuts. It is argued that the only effect of this stimulus was to suck-in imports; and to push-up domestically generated wage inflation.

Just how true this claim is must remain uncertain. One possible interpretation of the increase in imports is that industry was buying in capital goods to replace itself for the future, something which might be expected to happen at this stage of the cycle given our relative weakness in some capital goods sectors.

Let us, for the moment, however, assume that it is correct that the response of the economy was to suck-in goods from abroad rather than to ex-

Weakened firms unable to cope

pand output at home. What reason is there to think that things will be different if the extra demand comes as a result of a transfer of funds from the North Sea to the non-oil sector?

In both cases an external stimulus to demand is being applied to the non-oil sector. Can that sector actually absorb the funds? We have seen that among other things, the result of a sudden increase in earnings from oil was a sharp boost to inflation; the absorptive capacity of their non-oil economy was just not great enough.

What we are to have any hope of benefiting the economy through the extra revenues from North Sea oil which government gets from 1982 then it is necessary either that the economy should already be in a position to cope with expansion, or that the Government and many economists believe, or that there should be some improvement over the intervening period.

That is why the short-term squeeze which companies are facing has such potentially long and harmful effects. It may actually weaken their ability to cope with an expanding market. It certainly explains the growing desire many of them have to see the exchange rate come down.

Treasury ministers have found the prospect of a recovery in 1982 about the only bright spot in an otherwise very gloomy picture. But if that recovery is to be soundly based, it has to avoid going the way of previous recoveries which ran headlong into the bottle-neck and supply constraints which have long bedevilled the British economy.

If there is one question which really will determine what chance there is of a real recovery in 1982—if there is no U-turn—it is whether industry can find a way of making itself more able to respond to increases in demand. Will the years of austerity which we now face force industry to become more efficient so that it can respond to demand? Or will they just weaken manufacturing to a point at which it is unable to support even less expansion than it has done in the past? This is the real test of whether the Government's policies could, given the chance, work in time.

David Blake

Sorting out the posts from the telephones

The impending split of the Post Office into two corporations, one for posts, one for telecommunications, will focus public attention fully onto the ailing postal side of the business.

Legislation for the change is expected to be completed early next year; but in the interim, a great many decisions need to be taken about the role and future of both posts and telecommunications.

The timing is unfortunate for posts, which is just completing one of the worst years in its very long history. A combination of low pay, low productivity and high staff turnover triggered a crisis last summer resulting in the temporary closure of the entire service. The Post Office had to advise customers to avoid using the mails and suspended some second class services altogether.

Complaints reached such a pitch that Sir Keith Joseph, then newly-appointed as Secretary of State for Industry, threatened to end the postal monopoly. And anxiety from users prompted Mr John Nott, the Secretary of State for Trade, to refer the London postal area, which acts as a clearing house for much of the nation's mail, to the Monopolies Commission.

The commission's report, which should be completed early next month and published a few weeks later, is expected to make strong criticisms.

Last summer's chaos was directly reflected in the Post Office's interim results, published earlier this month after themselves being delayed because of a computer centre dispute. The figures show a loss of £12m for the postal service for the six months ending last September 28, compared with a profit of over £24m recorded in the same period of 1978.

While the public must be bemused by the turnaround of this magnitude, it is easy to forget that the Post Office operates on a huge scale. The postal division alone represents one of the country's largest enterprises, with over 176,000 employees and a turnover of around £1,500m.

The margins are very slender, and since wages represent more than three-quarters of total costs, the plans can be pushed off course very quickly. Similarly, an adjustment in tariffs will also be quickly reflected in the financial results. By applying two price increases within the last six months, the Post Office expects to be able to drag its annual results back on to target by the end of next month. But, by manipulating prices in this way it has brought a fresh burst of criticism from users.

The two increases add up to a 33.3 per cent rise in first class postage prices and 42.9 per cent in second class rates. The crucial question is what effect will the double increases have on volume? The Post Office's own internal forecasts suggest a decline of 6 per cent in letter traffic by early 1984. The Mail Users Association—a pressure group of business and postal customers—thinks that the drop at least in the short term will be much greater, perhaps of the order of 10 per cent.

A downward slide of this scale has far-reaching implications. For, with the decrease in volume in mail posted will come a consequent drop in the already low levels of productivity. If financial targets are to be met, this in turn will set off a spiral of cuts in service, or yet more price rises, or both, leading inexorably to a further decrease in postings as users turn to other methods of communication for speed, reliability and cheapness.



Letters being sorted by hand at a major London office.

Many people, including senior Post Office managers believe the postal service is at a crossroads. Unless it can learn to adapt to external changes more swiftly than it has in the past, the service may have no long-term future at all.

Legislative decisions now being taken will have a major impact. But so will the response of unions and staff to an experimental productivity scheme through which the Post Office management is at present trying to introduce more flexibility into its operations.

If the Post Office's monopoly in delivery of addressed letters is removed in such a way as to permit private operators to "cream off" selected, profitable areas, it will hasten the demise of the basic network. If, on the other hand, the same obligations to provide a comprehensive service to the same standards, were placed on private operators it is doubtful whether any would take on the business. Although the formal

Patricia Tisdall

recommendation is that the postal monopoly should remain, privately, Post Office managers do not see its removal as much of a threat, provided it is allowed to compete on an equal footing with any private newcomers.

One of the changes which the corporation's management would like to see in the new legislation would be the opportunity to widen the range of services which post offices could offer. This would, for instance, enable them to sell British Rail pensioners' travel cards, and generally make the counter staffs more cost effective. It remains to be seen, however, if new business can compensate for losses which may result from economies in other areas.

Another change favoured by the Post Office is a greater facility to vary its service according to local conditions. In particular it wants to be able to deliver letters in ground floor batteries of letter boxes to blocks of flats with common entrances. It is indicative of the relationship which exists to a unique extent between the Post Office and its customers that even the hint of such a modest change as this should be greeted with howls of rage.

Standards of service set for the British Post Office for those who are not from their counterparts in other countries. Also they are probably higher than this country either wants or can afford. The difficulty facing the present management is in selecting parts which can usefully be abandoned and in discarding them without further demoralising customers and staff.

In order to raise productivity in this and other ways, though,

Business Diary: Electrotechnical hitch • BL in reverse?

Two leading lights of the electronics business are making an exhibition of themselves in the most public way possible.

This week's third biennial International Electrical Exhibition (Electrex '80) at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, is turning out to be a showcase for a row between the show's joint organisers, Industrial and Trade Fairs (ITF) and Electrex Ltd.

ITF, part of Reed International, which is interested in the pure electronics and instrumentation side of this electrotechnical feast, is unplugging from future Electrex shows to mount its own do in May 1982—a few months after the next Electrex exhibition.

ITF's action "undoes all the efforts of the sponsors and Electrex Limited in recent years to mount an exhibition which is truly representative of the international electrotechnical industry." Electrex chairman Alex Robertson let it be known yesterday.

Electrex, which is involved with the Association of Supervisory and Executive Engineers, specialises in the electrical end of the business. The company got together with ITF in 1976 after both had exhibited independently.

Electrex space at NEC this year went up to 20,000 sq metres from 11,000, but ITF's went down from 15,000 to 9,000 sq metres.

This week's public row is only the tip of the iceberg. Electrex is countering ITF's rival show in 1982 by booking a quarter more space and by bumping up the electronics side of the exhibition.



EEF's Anthony Hampton yesterday.

Antony Hampton, yesterday took over as president of the Engineering Employers' Federation from Sir Geoffrey Hawkins, chairman of Stone-Platt Industries.

Hampton, chairman of the family firm Record Ridgway, a Sheffield hand tool manufacturer, is a former chairman of the EEF's working party on pay policy. It was rather apt that he should let drop yesterday that BL is to pull out of the industry's national negotiating machinery.

BL, which would like more flexibility in its wages negotiations, is prepared to retain "looser links" with the EEF, and may be persuaded to continue to pay its £300,000 annual subscription, but is determined to resign EEF membership in June.

Hampton will have to lead the industry through a period of acute depression.



Photograph by Chris Ball

Brian Haslett (right) is an Englishman who started his career with Tube Investments and progressed via the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an association with Stanley Rubel, father figure to the American venture capital business, to a partnership in Boston's Venture Founders Corporation. Haslett and his team approached through the academic mafia in the States, have now agreed to set up an operation in Rainford (near St Helens), to hunt for successful British equivalents to their American protégés.

The hunt is being undertaken on behalf, first, of Pilkington's, largest local employer, who are offering up to £2m for equity investment in small companies prepared to set and expand there.

Considering that Pilkington's directors think the salvation of the country will owe much to successful smaller companies, their decision to go abroad for their venture capital experts looks rather odd. They are,



Photograph by Dennis Riley

however, quite unrepentant. They say, not merely that the business of finding successful smaller companies is better developed in the United States, but that Venture Founders has developed a proven screening system.

Over £150m has been invested locally in new manufacturing recently, and Ian Holden, the city's director of industrial development, had a whole range of projects on offer yesterday.

He's looking for a developer for part of a 400-moorings marina to be created from the obsolete Humber and Railway docks, as well as for a 150-bedroom hotel.

Hull also wants an experienced R and D manager to head an "innovation centre".

The corporation is inviting individuals with bright ideas for new products to apply for spaces, as well as production, technical and marketing help. Companies are being asked to sponsor people wishing to start new businesses. Once a development gets going, the innovator will be expected to move out to make way for someone else. Some innovations could spin off from the latest technology work being done by Professor S. A. Ramsden's team at Hull University.

Kingston upon Hull's three Labour MPs, James Johnson, Kevin McNamara and John Prescott pushed the boat out at the House of Commons yesterday to help change the city's traditional "fish and docks" image.

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Irish newspaper titles perplexed a French delegate to yesterday's European Parliament hearing on consumer legislation in Dublin. "I knew the Irish drank a lot," said the bemused Gaul surveying the list of those attending, "but never realised they had a Cork Examiner."

Ross Davies



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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Interest in second liners enlivens dull trading

The stock market livened up yesterday after the quiet trading of the first two days of the new account, despite the Chancellor of the Exchequer's warning on Tuesday night that the country's economic recovery may take a decade, and the lack of progress in the steel strike.

Trading opened with continued interest in the second-line oil shares, although buyers started to fade out during the morning leaving Viking Oil 3p down at 980 by the close. They were replaced by investors' interest in other second-line issues, rather than the leading stocks. But there was a little more activity in the engineering sector than in the past few weeks, as the steel strike appeared to be crumbling on the private side. Bid speculation over a number of shares, including Montague L. Meyer, which gained 1p to 114p, Borthorpe Holdings, which added 6p to 112p, was also a noticeable feature of the day as well as activity generated by company results.

The gilt-edged market, which remained quiet, was overshadowed by the disappointing response to the new £800m long "cap" and finished up to a 2 1/2 custer. Shorts saw a little more activity after the announcement of the Belgian bank rate increase of 11 per cent to 12 per

cent and ended 1 1/2 down on the day. The FT Index gradually moved up during the day, reaching 456.6, 3 up by noon, it closed 6.8 up at 460.4.

The leading industrial sector, which was awaiting ICT's Prospects of a breakthrough at long last for Mothercare's American operations have provoked the unusual spectacle in the retailing sector of raised profits estimates which, coupled with stories of a forthcoming British baby boom, pushed the share price up 8p to 228p yesterday. The group is now expected to make £12m this year, against £15.7m last time.

Results today saw small increases where there were increases. TCI rose 3p to 390p, while Courtalds added 1p to 72p. Beecham lost 1p to 123p and Rank gained 4p to 224p. Fisons and Glaxo were unchanged at 287p and 230p respectively as was Dunlop at 66p. Hawker Siddeley added 6p to 175p by the close. But BOC International, which had seen bear closing after Tuesday's downgraded estimates for its first quarter, ended up at 64p. Profits were down from £14.4m to £12.4m. GKN showed a 10p gain on

the day to 257p, following the news of its expansion by acquisition in the United States, while Tube Investments improved 8p to 302p. Oil-related stocks in the sector were given a boost by continued buying following rumours of North Sea discoveries with National Carbonising up 6p to 122p having risen 14 points in the last two days. It has a 69 per cent stake in Siebens.

Oil itself was a little quieter although they provided the greatest interest in the market throughout the day. Of the major stocks, BP gained 10p to 359p while Shell with results due next week, put on 4p to 392p. Tricentrol added 6p to 330p but Burmah left back by the same amount to 240p after its rise during the last few days

on hopes of a bid. Siebens closed virtually unchanged at 822p despite earlier gains during the day.

Although Hoover's profits crashed at the full year, the dividend was maintained, so it gained 1p to 145p after the announcement. Brown Brothers gained 1p to 301p after a near-doubling of the interim dividend on a 7 per cent increase in profits. Vantens continued to draw strength from Tuesday's figures and added 3p to 106p, but second thoughts about the sale of the London headquarters brought Bolton Textiles down 8p to 29p in the afternoon.

Ladbroke, which began its latest appeal against the loss of its casino licences, went down 8p to 149p, while takeover

hopes which followed the death of Manchester United's chairman, Mr Louis Edwards, lifted the shares 20p to 260p during the day.

Renewed speculation over a takeover bid for Debenhams, denied by the chairman, pushed the share price up 6p to 90p.

In electricals, Thorn added 10p to 326p as hopes were raised that it would soon announce the sale of the scanner division, which was acquired through EMI LWT Holdings gained 3p to 132p and Louis Newmark added 18p to 350p in response to the interest shown in past of the sector. GEC remained unchanged at 377p and Racal gained 2p to 217p.

Good nine-month profits from Johnston Matthey hoisted the price to 144p.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	dance	total
Barrow's (F)	135.7 (116.4)	26.4 (14.7)	—	—	—	—
Brown Bros (I)	47.2 (43.9)	1.8 (1.7)	3.49 (3.91)	1.0 (0.53)	2.6	(1.4)
BOC (I) (b)	290.0 (303.0)	12.4 (14.3)	2.21 (2.2)	—	—	—
BPM Bldgs (I)	32.1 (26.9)	3.4 (2.3)	50.4 (40.2)	—	—	—
Edgeland (F)	0.39 (0.32)	—	—	—	—	—
General Accident (F)	815.0 (746.0)	55.5 (50.1)	23.7 (26.3)	6.5 (4.82)	2.6	12.0 (9.0)
Allen Harvey (F)	—	0.63 (0.58)	—	11.5 (11.44)	2/5	21.2 (21.4)
Hoover (F)	203.67 (212.06)	1.86 (1.52)	3.26 (3.0)	6.38 (5.39)	15	12.0 (12.0)
Moore's (F)	—	0.12 (0.12)	6.12 (5.04)	4.4 (3.5)	31/3	6.0 (5.22)
Rights & Issues (F)	—	0.1a (0.08a)	3.97 (3.06)	2.48 (1.9)	—	3.48 (2.9)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on profits per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To compare the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net, a—last quarter.

AGB Research in £3.6m cash call

By Michael Clark
AGB Research, the consumer and market research group, turned to its shareholders for extra cash yesterday when it unveiled a rights issue to raise £3.6m.

The rights, the company's second in two years, will be achieved with the issue of 2.8m new shares on the basis of one new share for every four ordinary shares previously held at 12.5p. The document should also interest the City. It is expected to show the current financial position of Birmingham and Midland, the private investment vehicle of City entrepreneur, Sir Graham Lacey.

The market took a favourable

view of the news yesterday despite cautiously marking the shares 8p lower at 165p which, in turn, gave the new shares a discount of 22 pence.

"Satisfactory level" the board is forecasting pre-tax profits of not less than £2.8m for the full year to April 30. This compares with £2.2m last year.

At the same time, it is recommending a final dividend of 5.4p gross making 10p, a rise of 36.4 per cent.

Mr Bernard Audley, chairman, said the money would be principally used for further acquisitions.

A present, the group is eagerly eyeing four companies with the intention of expanding. Three of them are market researchers, two of them based in Europe, while the last is a software company.

In addition to this Mr Audley is hoping to launch a further five new magazine publications bringing the total in the last two years to 10.

Construction of its Sanger Lane property, in which it holds 50 per cent with Taylor Woodrow, continues, and on completion should be worth double the £3.6m the group has laid out.

Briefly

BERNARD WARDLE

The formal offer document from Birmingham & Midland Counties Trust, who are bidding £4.1m for the 70 per cent of plastics concern Bernard Wardle that he does not already own, will be posted today. Advisory, Arbitration, Laitham, point out that the £4.1 share offer includes Wardle's 0.87p final dividend and those accepting the offer will forfeit that dividend. The document should also interest the City. It is expected to show the current financial position of Birmingham and Midland, the private investment vehicle of City entrepreneur, Sir Graham Lacey.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL TRUST
Board has arranged with Manufacturers Hanover Trust to refinance an existing mortgage facility of £1.5m expiring in March 1982, and to obtain a further facility of £2m making a total borrowing of £3.5m repayable on March 15, 1982.

MOORE'S TRUST
Gross revenue for 1979, £1.34m (£1.07m), net revenue £504,000 (£499,000). Eps 6.12p (£5.04p). Nav per share 129.53p (£120.72p). Dividend is 5.37p gross (£4.71p). Disposal with Inland Revenue has been settled in the group's favour.

CENTRAL TRUSTEE
Central Trustee Savings Bank, banker to the TSB group, reports a pre-tax profit of £3.5m for year to November 30, 1979 (£2.5m). Balances rose from £537m to £621m. Substantial growth in activities of TSBs was reflected in increasing activity of TSB clearing departments. TSB customers' cheques cleared totalled 66 million, a 24 per cent increase on previous year.

J. P. NASH SEC
Chairman told annual meeting that launch of new convertible Schmitt GIC last weekend was very successful. Already, orders have been received for over 450 and, if this demand is sustained, it will be very good news for Reliance Motor. The group has already produced and sold more Robin vehicles in January and February this year than they did last year.

RIGHTS & ISSUES INV TRUST
Dividend from 1979, 3.48p (2.9p) on income shares. Net revenue, £109,000 (£87,000). Earnings per income share 3.57p (£3.06p) and nav per income share, 36.7p (£34.6p).

ALLEN HARVEY & ROSS
Profit for year to February 5, £1.5m (£1.4m) including balance brought forward, £865,500 (£835,000). Net assets, £5.9m (£5.5m). Dividend is raised from 24.6p to 25.0p.

W. WILLIAMS & SONS (HOLDINGS)
Mr Peter Prior, chairman of H. Bulmer (Holdings), is to join steel strike is settled, it is difficult to assess the impact it will have on this year's profits, but it could materially affect profit of Williams Alexandra Foundry and Alfred Cook, and indirectly, at other operations. He is confident in the group's ability to overcome such difficulties.

SHELL EURO CREDIT
A \$30m 12-year multi-currency Eurocredit for Shell Finance (Australia) has been signed by lead manager National Westminster Bank. The credit will be used to finance investment programmes. Terms were not officially disclosed.—Reuter.

WARREN PLANTATION HOLDINGS
S.I.P.E.F. N.V. has become interested in 424,000 shares (5.04 per cent).

UNOCHROME INT
Conditions in all sectors have not been easy during first four months of new financial year, but chairman believes group is not so adversely affected by current conditions as many other companies in manufacturing and engineering.

SILVERTHORPE GROUP
Chairman said merged Silverthorpe-Gillott is finding it difficult to compete abroad, and United Kingdom, retail sales continue depressed.

Payout doubled by Brown Brothers

By Michael Clark

Desire a rather "flat" performance, shareholders of Brown Brothers Corporation are to receive a dividend boosted by nearly 100 per cent.

Pre-tax profits of the group, 69 per cent owned by the Dana Corporation of the United States, improved by 7.7 per cent to £1.85m in the six months to December 31. This was achieved on turnover up from £43.9m to £47.2m, which in turn boosted trading profits by 21 per cent to £2.4m.

At the same time, the directors have declared an interim dividend of 1.6p gross compared with 0.88p for the corresponding period.

However, the board is quick

to point out that the higher payment has only been made to bring the interim dividend more into line with the final, and therefore it should not be presumed that the year-end payment will show the same amount of increase.

Sir Monty Frichard, chairman, said the "fairly flat" sales figure was mainly the result of the group's rationalisation programme.

This had been done to reduce lower-priced goods, while at the same time, pushing harder at the higher margin goods.

Nevertheless, in spite of the political and industrial problems facing the United Kingdom, the second half had started well and the group was very much on target, he added.

UDT borrowings cut after £12.5m sale

By Philip Robinson

United Dominions Trust, the financial services and international banking group, is selling its Australian instalment credit group to a Dutch company for £12.5m.

The move will reduce group borrowings of UDT by around £75m, or about 10 per cent.

At present the company is awaiting a Bank of England decision on whether it will be registered as a bank or a deposit-taking institution, under the Banking Act 1979. The decision is seen in the City as an important stage of UDT's recovery from the secondary banking crisis in 1975. It is still owed the lifeboat a shade under £200 million.

Ideally, UDT would like to have full banking status as defined by the Act. If it cannot, then the "lifeboat" borrowings—which come from the Bank of England—would be likely to cost more, and since they would qualify as interest-bearing liabilities, against which the clearers would have to hold reserves, they would be controlled by the central bank.

The sale of UDT Australia to NV Amer is the latest in a number of moves by UDT to reduce its overseas exposure. But there are no other plans to sell off the profitable interests in Belgium, New York, Ireland or the 40 per cent of the Nigerian Credit company.

More businesses turn to factoring

By Our Financial Staff

Small and medium-sized businesses are increasingly turning to factoring to ease their cash flow difficulties, according to figures published yesterday by the Association of British Factors.

The association, formed only three years ago by the eight leading factoring companies in the United Kingdom, reports a 27.6 per cent increase in its combined volume of business which rose in 1979 from £1,335m to £1,707m. Factoring, which is a service providing money

against sales immediately they are invoiced, has grown rapidly from only £200m in 1973.

There has been a 21 per cent increase in the association's international business which has grown to a total of £214m while the financing of receivables—involve discounting—rose a similar amount to £380m.

The association, whose largest members are all part of the big clearing banks, says that the number of companies using factoring services rose from 1,725 to 2,080 in 1979.

Second private group takes a stake in Messerschmitt

From Darel Delanais

A second private industry grouping has acquired a significant stake in Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm, the West German aerospace company, in the rapidly evolving realignment of the national industry.

Allianz-Versicherung AG, the leading insurance group, disclosed in Munich on Tuesday that together with Robert Bosch GMBH, the engineering and electronics group, it acquired a 12.2 per cent stake in MBB as of the beginning of this year.

A spokesman for the insurance company declined to disclose price or other terms of the acquisition. It is evident from the changes in shareholding as disclosed by MBB today that the shares came from the State of Bavaria, which reduced its holding from about 27 per cent to 23 per cent, and the "Fides" industrial group (consisting of Siemens, Thyssen and Aerospaciale), which cut its holding from 34 per cent to 26 per cent. The other MBB shareholders are Hamburg and the founders or their heirs.

Newspaper group profits rise to £3.46m

By Our Financial Staff

BPM Holdings, which owns the Birmingham Post and Evening Mail, increased profits from £2.6m to £3.46m in the six months to December 29.

Turnover rose from £26.9m to £33.3m. About £1.5m of the increase is attributable to the recently-acquired Supercards which also chipped in over £300,000 to profits. This suggests the acquisition has been outperforming expectations, though its reliance on the Christmas trade means a sharp reduction in the second half contribution.

The group says the improvement came across the board from newspapers, retailing, exhibition and other interests. Stripping out Supercards, and about 15 per cent for inflation and an element of revenue growth, the underlying growth in advertising revenue comes out at 9 per cent.

This was largely in display advertising with classified doing no more than marking time. Meanwhile, circulation growth across all publications averaged out at about 1 per cent.

But the second half is far less promising. Industry projections suggest newspaper advertising will fall by perhaps 9 per cent in classified and 6 per cent in display, although

BPM has not yet felt the effects, it expects to be suffering by May to June.

In addition, expenses are rising. However, the group's wide spread of activities is seen as a cushion against the worst.

More financial news, page 24

effects of the downturn and the board "does not expect a drastic setback in the results for the year as a whole."

Meanwhile, £3.5m is being spent on modernising the printing presses of the Post and Mail and installing an advanced electronic telephone exchange to improve service to advertisers. This programme should be completed by early next year and the emphasis is then likely to switch to spending on the retail side.

With the balance sheet still broadly unchanged from the year end, the company is well placed to consider further acquisitions but is not desperate to diversify further for time being.

The interim payment is 2.05p gross compared with 1.52p last time. The shares fell 4p to 88p yesterday where they yield 6.9 per cent historically. The tax charge is 38 per cent giving earnings per share of 50.4p against 40.2p.

General Accident

Results for 1979

The audited accounts for the year to 31st December 1979 will be published on 28th April 1980, but preliminary and unaudited figures for 1979, with actual figures for 1978, are as follows:

	1979	1978
£m	£m	£m
Premium Income	815.2	715.4
General Business	515.2	415.4
Long Term Business	300.0	299.9
Profit and Loss Account	—	—
Investment Income	104.4	88.1
Underwriting Result—General Business	(12.2)	1.1
Shareholders' Long Term Profits	3.9	2.2
Less Interest on Loans	89.1	91.6
UK Employees' Profit Sharing Scheme	1.0	—
Profit before Taxation	86.5	90.1
Taxation—UK and Overseas	28.8	29.7
Profit after Taxation	57.7	60.4
Minority Interests and Preference Dividends	1.2	1.0
Profit for the year available to Ordinary Shareholders	56.5	59.4
Earnings per share	35.7p	36.3p
Dividend per share	12.0p	9.04p

Note

In arriving at the profit for the year, overseas revenue has been translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the year end.

Analysis by territory of General Business Premium Income and Underwriting Result

	1979	Underwriting	Principal	1978	Underwriting	Principal
	Income	Result	Income	Income	Result	Income
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
U.K.	364.7	(10.3)	—	296.7	(2.2)	—
U.S.A.	263.2	1.1	£2.22	262.2	4.9	£1.04
E.E.C.	59.5	(7.6)	—	54.1	(2.5)	—
Canada	43.3	(1.0)	£2.59	41.5	0.1	£2.42
Australia	19.3	(0.7)	£2.01	23.0	(0.6)	£1.77
Others, including reinsurance	45.6	0.3	—	48.1	2.1	—
Marine and Aviation	19.6	—	—	20.2	(0.5)	—
	815.2	(18.2)	745.8	715.4	1.1	—

Life Department

New Business figures are as follows

	1979	1978
£m	£m	£m
New Benefits	—	—
Sums assured	1,876.6	1,703.5
Annuities per annum	35.7	40.0
New Life and Annuity Premiums	—	—
Annual	16.6	14.8
Single	13.4	10.6

Final Dividend for the year ended 31st December 1979

The Directors have decided to recommend to the Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 21st May 1980, the payment of a final dividend on the Ordinary Shares of 6.5p per share making a total distribution for the year of 12.0p per share.

The dividend will be payable on or after 1st July 1980, to Shareholders on the register on 2nd June 1980.

General Accident

General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation Ltd

World Headquarters, General Buildings, Perth, Scotland.

How Imperial Group Ltd. contributed to the country's foundations in 1979.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN, SIR JOHN PILE

HOW IMPERIAL FARED IN 1979

In 1979 measures were taken and others were set in train which will be of great importance to the Group in the years ahead, but before I come to them I must look back on the financial year which ended last October. Our total trading surplus rose by £13.1 million to £157.1 million on sales which were 11% higher at £3,822 million. Higher short term interest rates, however, pushed interest charges up by £6.5 million to £40.9 million, leaving profit before taxation at £136.7 million which was better than last year by only £5.6 million, a rise of 4.3%. After taxation of £12.5 million, some £15.5 million lower than in 1978, profit after taxation was £124.2 million.

Last year, our tobacco interests showed a marked recovery over the previous year as our presence in the king size market gained further strength and margins improved. Higher costs kept our Brewery Division's increase in trading surplus to a modest level, while the earnings of our Paper, Board, Packaging and Plastics Division were slightly depressed. In our Food Division, the performance of the great majority of our businesses was significantly better than last year, but this was more than offset by substantial losses on eggs and poor results from our chicken interests in the U.S.A.

THE FUTURE OF IMPERIAL

Several factors, including the now mercifully defunct Price Commission, but, above all, the torpid state of the British economy on which we are at present so largely dependent, have inhibited our profit-growth in recent years.

For the past fifteen years we have been diversifying in order to lessen our dependence on a single market, tobacco, which we dominated. Our bid to acquire Howard Johnson in the U.S.A. is designed to bring us foreign earnings and a platform for the growth of such earnings. Dependence on a single economy has become unusual for a company of our size, but Imperial has for many years been distinguished by another feature, which is perhaps just as exceptional for

a major trading company. I refer to our substantial holding in B.A.T. Industries Ltd., dating from 1902, which gave us a useful but indirect stake in overseas trading. This holding was subsequently sold in two stages and the proceeds reinvested short term; the first stage was in 1975 and the second last March, and we took advantage on both occasions of a rare conjunction of factors favourable to securing a good price in such a transaction.

LEISURE AS A GROWTH AREA

It is my responsibility and that of my colleagues on the Board to ensure that the Imperial of tomorrow will be a thriving enterprise creating wealth which will benefit shareholders, employees, pensioners and the nation at large. We will need to concentrate more of our assets in businesses with higher growth potential, and to improve our capacity for bringing together human and financial resources to exploit new business opportunities in providing many of the services as well as the goods which people will want when they relax at or away from home.

We see leisure as a growth area, and we anticipate a rising demand for goods and services which offer high quality and good value for money. It is in order to flourish in tomorrow's markets that we have continued to reshape Imperial, and in addition to potential for growth in its own right, the special appeal to us of Howard Johnson is that its acquisition and integration will offer scope for developing other parts of the Group and for further progress along our chosen route into the coming decade and beyond.

With the B.A.T. connection at an end, and with the Howard Johnson acquisition seemingly set fair for completion, an important phase in the re-appraisal of Imperial's future is coming to a close. Ahead of us lies the exciting challenge of making the newly-shaped Group work to the best of its considerable ability.

EMPLOYEES

I thank employees at all levels who contributed to our achievements last year. There were, however,

disputes and practices outside the Group and, to a much lesser extent, within some of our companies which meant that we did not achieve all that we might have done.

RESPONSIBLE BARGAINING

Freedom to bargain over terms and conditions of employment has now been restored after some years of restraint, either statutory or voluntary. This freedom nevertheless carries with it for all concerned a duty to bargain responsibly in the interests of everyone, to adopt new methods of working and to make the best of new technology. For wherever inefficiency and low productivity are enshrined in defensive attitudes and restrictive practices at any level in the Group, we are failing to give the best possible value to our customers, to those who invest in us, to society at large and, indeed, to each other.

It is a fallacy that higher productivity inevitably leads to higher unemployment. It can well lead to the reverse. The money saved thereby can go in higher pay and higher profits thus increasing the purchasing power of employees, companies and their shareholders so that the demand for products is generally stimulated. The truth of this can be plainly observed by comparing other developed countries with our own. The true cause of our rising unemployment is the lack of competitiveness of many of our industries in world markets and in our own country, and this is in large measure due to our low productivity.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS	1979	1978
	£ million	£ million
Sales to customers outside the Group	3,821.8	3,432.8
Group trading surplus before interest	157.1	144.0
Interest on borrowing	(40.9)	(34.4)
	116.2	109.6
Income on investments	20.5	21.5
Group profit before tax	136.7	131.1
Group profit after taxation and minorities	123.7	102.8
Profit from sales of properties and investments, etc.	117.2	20.3
	240.9	123.1
Retained in the business	189.5	78.5
Dividends	51.4	44.6
	240.9	123.1

DIVISIONAL RESULTS	Sales		Trading surplus before interest	
	1979	1978	1979	1978
	£ million		£ million	
Tobacco	1998.6	1951.3	78.6	66.3
Paper, Board, Packaging & Plastics	257.5	230.0	15.4	15.9
Food	1098.9	856.1	24.7	27.1
Brewery	505.8	449.9	38.3	37.1
Effect of foreign currency changes	0.7	(17.6)	0.1	(2.4)
TOTALS	3861.5	3469.7	157.1	144.0
Less: Sales within the Group and associated companies	39.7	36.9		
TOTAL EXTERNAL SALES	3821.8	3432.8		

To the Registrar, P.O. Box 161, Bedminster, Bristol BS99 7JP.
Please send me the Imperial Group Annual Report

Name _____

Address _____

AR 2

IMPERIAL-part of the country's foundations.

IMPERIAL GROUP LIMITED products include tobacco goods from W.D. & H.O. Wills, John Player & Sons and Ogden's; Ross Foods, Buxted Poultry, Golden Wonder Crisps, Smedley-HP Foods, Young's Seafoods; Courage and John Smith's Beers.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

International

Sumitomo Chemicals push ahead to a record

Japan's Sumitomo Chemical company says that its income in the year ended last December 31 reached a record 112,840 yen, registering a 188.6 per cent increase from 3,894 yen in the previous year.

Sales increased by 25.6 per cent to 550,611 yen from 434,952 yen a year before.

Sales of industrial chemical products rose by 32.3 per cent to 270,482 yen. Those of plastics and synthetic rubber went up 40.3 per cent to 118,445 yen. Sales of dyestuffs and fine chemicals were up 7.6 per cent to 2,510 yen. Pesticides were up 29.6 per cent to 42,370 yen.

A Sumitomo Chemical official attributed the good business performance to strong demand for chemicals in the domestic market. He added that the reduction of employees—by about 400 workers to about 8,800—was another reason. It was also said that the year's decline contributed to a marked increase for exports.

Cous Gold (Aust.)

Consolidated Gold Fields of Australia showed a pre-tax profit of \$429.0m (about £13m) for the half year ended December 31, 1979, compared with \$17.4m a year earlier.

Sales amounted to \$481.3m, investment and other income \$43.9m. Earnings per share were 29.5 cents (18 cents).

Woodside rights

Woodside Petroleum of Australia is raising \$412m rights issue. The funds will be used to finance estimated expenditure on the North West Shelf project until long-term borrowing arrangements have been concluded.

North West Shelf Development, Hematite Petroleum have advised that their full entitlements, totalling 34.15 million shares, will be taken up. The remainder of the issue has been underwritten.

Mannesmann

Mannesmann AG, the large West German engineering group, has given a warning that its earnings fell last year compared with 1978 when world wide consolidated net profit amounted to DM256m (about £61m).

In an interim report, the company blamed the decline on its steel tube and plant construction divisions, which it said failed to recover from a period of weakness. The companies of the group producing investment goods improved their results. It has also disclosed that world wide group turnover fell by 2 per cent to DM12,670m last year from DM12,670m in 1978. Fixed asset investments increased to DM538m from DM500m the year before as a result of higher spending in West Germany.

Options

After Tuesday's quick burst of activity traded options reversed yesterday, the price of the contracts which have prevailed lately. Total contracts fell from 706 to 427 with Cows Gold Fields, reporting soon, continuing to dominate proceedings with 100 contracts. Investors were anxious to take up positions in the April 550p series while some interest was also expressed in the April 500p series. Land Secs also attracted some interest as did Shell ahead of next week's figures.

Traditional options had a busier day with dealers reporting high turnover.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	17%
Barclays Bank	17%
BCCI Bank	17%
Consolidated Creds	17%
C. Hoare & Co	17%
Clydes Bank	17%
London Mercantile	17%
Midland Bank	17%
Nat Westminster	17%
Rossmore	17%
TSB	17%
Williams and Glyn's	17%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 15% up to £25,000 10% over £25,000 12%.

First City Finance House Ltd. Rate of 1 month 10%.

Yours and Loans Bank Ltd.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1979	1980	Company	Price	Chgt	Div	Yld	P/E
99	71	Airsprung Group	71	-	6.7	9.4	4.2
100	36	Armstrong & Rhodes	36	-	3.8	10.6	2.4
235	185	Bardon Hill	235	-	13.8	5.9	6.3
100	85	County Cars Pref	85	-	15.3	18.0	-
101	63	Deborah Ord	90x2-2	5.0	5.6	9.9	-
98	88	Frank Horsell	98	-	7.9	8.1	6.1
129	100	Frederick Parker	108	-	12.8	11.8	4.9
156	102	George Blair	105	-	16.5	15.7	-
65	45	Jackson Group	65	-	1.2	8.0	3.8
133	113	James Burrough	116	-	7.2	6.2	10.2
300	242	Robert Jenkins	253	-	31.3	12.4	8.1
232	175	Torday Limited	218	-	14.3	6.5	5.7
34	161	Twinkl Ord	19	-	1.0	4.4	3.6
60	70	Twinkl 12% ULS	76	-	12.0	15.8	-
56	23	Unilock Holdings	50	-	2.6	5.2	10.6
85	42	Walter Alexander	85	-	4.4	5.1	5.6
190	136	W. S. Yeates	182	-	25.8	6.3	7.1

* Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP15.

Wall Street

New York, Feb. 27.—Stocks moved higher in active trading this morning with the oil again providing much of the leadership. Advances led declines four-to-three and the Dow Jones industrial average gained five points.

Active Exxon rose 1 1/2 to 67 1/2. It raised prices on several of its fuels. California Standard added 1 1/2 to 82. Superior Oil 5 to 174. Conoco Inc 1 1/2 to 57 1/2 and Shell Oil 1 1/2 to 71 1/2.

February 26: The Dow Jones industrial average closed 4.44 points up at 864.25.

Gold down \$21

New York, Feb. 26.—GOLD at New York closed at \$352.00, down \$21.00 from \$373.00 on Feb. 25. The price of gold fell from \$373.00 to \$352.00, a drop of \$21.00. The price of gold fell from \$373.00 to \$352.00, a drop of \$21.00. The price of gold fell from \$373.00 to \$352.00, a drop of \$21.00.

COPPER—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 117.00; April, 119.00; May, 121.00; June, 123.00; July, 125.00; August, 127.00; September, 129.00; October, 131.00; November, 133.00; December, 135.00. The price of copper fell from \$121.00 to \$117.00, a drop of \$4.00.

SOYBEANS—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 5.10; April, 5.15; May, 5.20; June, 5.25; July, 5.30; August, 5.35; September, 5.40; October, 5.45; November, 5.50; December, 5.55. The price of soybeans fell from \$5.20 to \$5.10, a drop of \$0.10.

WHEAT—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 3.10; April, 3.15; May, 3.20; June, 3.25; July, 3.30; August, 3.35; September, 3.40; October, 3.45; November, 3.50; December, 3.55. The price of wheat fell from \$3.20 to \$3.10, a drop of \$0.10.

ALUMINUM—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of aluminum fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

NICKEL—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of nickel fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

LEAD—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of lead fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

ZINC—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of zinc fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

STEEL—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of steel fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

IRON—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of iron fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

CARBON—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of carbon fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

COKE—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of coke fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

BITUMEN—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of bitumen fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

CRUDE OIL—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of crude oil fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

NATURAL GAS—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of natural gas fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

HEATING OIL—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of heating oil fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

DIESEL OIL—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of diesel oil fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

AVIATION KEROSENE—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of aviation kerosene fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

JET A-1—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of jet A-1 fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

AVIATION TURBOJET FUEL—Feb. 27, 1980: March, 1.10; April, 1.15; May, 1.20; June, 1.25; July, 1.30; August, 1.35; September, 1.40; October, 1.45; November, 1.50; December, 1.55. The price of aviation turbojet fuel fell from \$1.20 to \$1.10, a drop of \$0.10.

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PERSONAL CHOICE



Ken Hutchison as Eddie in *Bill Craig's play A Gift from Nessus* (BBC 1, 8.30)

A Gift from Nessus (BBC 1, 9.25) is another of those exhausting likes down Agony Avenue. You might think it ought to have been called *Living Death* of a Salesman. It is a dramatization, by Bill Craig, of a book by William McEwan, and, on the printed page, the dialogue must have read more happily than it sounds on the small screen. It is full of lines like 'You face goes on to a girl he has just met in a café' and 'Your face goes on the characters keep worrying, about, about what they really are. The work, does, however, offer compensations. I was especially taken with Elizabeth Bell as the discarded mistress. She has the kind of dramatic eyes and low-slung voice no exceptional actress can do without. And the occasional juxtaposition of the painful reality of marital infidelity and the jokey projection of it is stingingly effective.

But what will the Germans think of it? Two years after the first screening in Britain of this Hollywood-made series about the Nazis' annihilation of the Jews, the four episodes are being screened again (Saturday, BBC 2, and tonight (BBC 2, 9.25) we learn the answer to our question. Valerie Singleton, in Germany, talks to a widow whose husband witnessed deaths in the Warsaw ghetto and could not live with the memory, and to a Jewish family whose father was in Dachau.

Tonight's film in the *Raidy College* series (BBC 2, 8.30) introduces us to a misfit, a bored 16-year-old who, though he knows he can't beat the system, still exercises his right not to love it. Who said this excellent series is just a PR exercise for *Raidy*? But enough of misery. There is much to laugh to make you laugh, too. Ask a Policeman (BBC 2, 6.00), the Will Hay comedy, for instance. It is only marginally less funny than the best of all Hay comedies. Oh! My Porter, and like that classic, it also stars the irreplaceable Graham Moffatt and Moore Marriott. That weekly serving of show business nostalgia, *Looks Familiar* (ITV, 7.00) is always worth watching if only for the relaxed comicality of Denis Norden. Its presenter, his guests and three accomplished exponents of light comedy playing Ian Carmichael, Mollie Lister and Patrick Cargill. ... Radio 3 offers (at 7.30) 'another chance to hear James Saunders's most intelligent comedy about six people trapped by a Swiss avalanche. The Last Black and White Midnight Movie. It stars Nigel Davenport.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: STEREO: BLACK AND WHITE: REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: Education in Britain. 7.05 Invention of Printing. 7.30 Being Bored. Close down at 7.55.
9.00 For Schools: Colleges: Japan (Hiroshima); 9.25 Science (energy utilization); 9.47 Science All Around; 10.10 Merry-go-round (Sleepers on the Hill); 10.35 Scene; 11.05 News and News; 11.30 Let's Look at Wales (Mysterious Blue stones); 11.55 On the Rocks. Close down at 12.20 pm.
12.45 News and weather.
1.00 Pebble MBI at One: Includes Film Focus, Tony Blower's movie item, 1.45 Heads and Tails; David and Goliath; 2.00 You and Me: A Visit to Nan's (r.).
2.15 Schools: Colleges: Music Time; 2.40 Television Club (Pet Subject); Close down at 3.00.
3.55 Play School: Ron Richards' story The Bubbly Bubble.
4.20 Boan: A Yugoslavian cartoon called 'Kara' and 'Che' and 'Ray' the jazz pianist.
4.25 Jockstrap: Gemma Jones continues reading from Nina Bayden's *The Robbers*.

BBC 2

6.40 am Open University: Conic Sections; 6.55 Open Process; 7.30 Search and Rescue. Close down at 7.55.
11.00 Play School: Same as BBC 1.
3.55 Close down at 11.25.
4.50 Open University: Oedipus Tyrannus.
5.40 Flash Gordon: The Tunnel of Terror. Episode 2 of this early space fiction adventure yarn, starring Buster Crabbe.
6.00 Film: Ask a Policeman (1939). Yet another Will Hay comedy, the merry tale of three incompetent village policemen (Hay and his marvellous partners Graham Moffatt and Moore Marriott) facing the sack unless they start their keep.
7.15 News: With sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: Making a Living (joiners' holidays); 9.52 Belshire (Or Noddy's); 10.10 Gosh Health (feet); 10.25 French (French-speaking school); 10.45 Bertrand Russell (happiness defined); 11.05 Music Round (making instruments); 11.27 Seeing and Doing (bird sanctuary); 11.44 Picture Box (Greek islands).
12.00 Topper's Tales: Julian Orchard tells the story of Digby, the pig. 12.10 Topper's Tales: The Sullivan's: Australian family serial.
1.00 News: With Peter Sissons. 1.20 Thames News: With Robin Houston.
1.30 together: Tales of life in a block of flats. More about Julie Dunne's baby.
2.00 After Noon Plus: The whole programme is given over to 'reconstituted families'—the stepchildren and stepchildren syndrome. About 30 people, representing the various types of children, will be in the studio to share their experiences.

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Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 News.
7.00 8.00 News.
7.30 8.30 News.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 You and Yours.
10.00 News.
10.05 Parent Power.
10.10 Daily Service.
10.45 Four Frightened People (14).
11.00 News.
11.05 Analysis.
11.30 Through My Window.
12.00 News.
12.05 You and Yours.
12.10 Detective (9).
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 News Archipel.
2.00 News.
2.05 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.05 Listen With Mother.
3.15 Play: Guffy and the Dangerous Question, by Barbara Fox.
4.45 Story: A Will to Endure.
5.00 PM.
5.05 Weather.
6.30 Brain of Britain 1980.
6.50 Daily Service.
7.00 The Archers.
7.20 Time for Verse.
7.30 Radio 4's Live from Festival Hall, pt 1: Rossini, Schumann.
8.00 Radio 4's Live from Festival Hall, pt 2: Franck (Sym).
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.10 Daily Service.
11.15 Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
11.40 News.
12.15-12.30 News.
12.30 News.
12.35 Regional news, weather.
12.50 Regional news, weather.
1.00 Regional news, weather.
1.05 Regional news, weather.
1.10 Regional news, weather.
1.15 Regional news, weather.
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4.45 Regional news, weather.
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4.55 Regional news, weather.
5.00 Regional news, weather.

Radio 3

6.55 am (now only) Weather.
7.30 News.
7.45 Records: Wolf-Ferrari, Liszt, Rossini, Dvorak.
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Delius, Holst, Pärt, Britten.
8.15 News.
8.20 Records: Composers: Satie, Poulenc.
8.30 Strings: Rutter, Warlock, Elgar.
8.40 Songs: Schumann, Britten.
11.35 BBC Northern SO/Dorset: Handel's *Viva Cana*, George Lloyd (Sym 7).
1.00 pm News.
1.05 Piano (Sonata), Live from the Royal Exchange: Bartok, Schumann (Kreisleriana).
2.00 Records (Keller): EBU International Quiet Country.
2.05 Chorus, brass, pt 2: Gabriel, Paves (Phaenomena).
2.15 News.
2.20 (now and mono only from 6.20). Music for early evening.
2.30 Talking about Music.
2.35 Play: The Last Black and White Midnight Movie, by James Saunders.
2.45 Chorus (Bream, Williams), Giuliani.
2.50 The Living Foot.
3.00 Piano (Aegle): Ravel (Gaspard).
3.05 Story: The Blue Moccasin, by D. H. Lawrence.
3.10 Building a Library: Chopin (Preludes).
3.15 Music in Our Time: Maxwell Anderson.
3.20 News.
3.25 Radio 3.

Radio 2

5.00 am News, weather. 5.03 Steve

RADIO

2.00-3.00 pm Schools: Living Language: Secondary Science; Look! 3.50 Regional news, weather. 11.00 Study on 4: The Bad Life 11.30-12.10 am Open University: Hardy and the Ballads; Technology and Society.

Radio 3

6.55 am (now only) Weather.
7.30 News.
7.45 Records: Wolf-Ferrari, Liszt, Rossini, Dvorak.
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3.20 News.
3.25 Radio 3.

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 6.00 Dave Lee Travis. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.31 Paul Burnett. 2.00 pm Peter Dinklage. 4.31 Kid Jensen. 7.00 Talkabout. 8.00 Mike Read. 9.50 Newsbeat. 10.00 John Peel. 12.00-5.00 am As Radio 2.

World Service

5.00 am As Radio 2. 6.00 Dave Lee Travis. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.31 Paul Burnett. 2.00 pm Peter Dinklage. 4.31 Kid Jensen. 7.00 Talkabout. 8.00 Mike Read. 9.50 Newsbeat. 10.00 John Peel. 12.00-5.00 am As Radio 2.

Regional TV

Channel 4: 12.00-12.30 pm News. 12.30-1.00 pm News. 1.00-1.30 pm News. 1.30-2.00 pm News. 2.00-2.30 pm News. 2.30-3.00 pm News. 3.00-3.30 pm News. 3.30-4.00 pm News. 4.00-4.30 pm News. 4.30-5.00 pm News. 5.00-5.30 pm News. 5.30-6.00 pm News. 6.00-6.30 pm News. 6.30-7.00 pm News. 7.00-7.30 pm News. 7.30-8.00 pm News. 8.00-8.30 pm News. 8.30-9.00 pm News. 9.00-9.30 pm News. 9.30-10.00 pm News. 10.00-10.30 pm News. 10.30-11.00 pm News. 11.00-11.30 pm News. 11.30-12.00 pm News. 12.00-12.30 pm News. 12.30-1.00 pm News. 1.00-1.30 pm News. 1.30-2.00 pm News. 2.00-2.30 pm News. 2.30-3.00 pm News. 3.00-3.30 pm News. 3.30-4.00 pm News. 4.00-4.30 pm News. 4.30-5.00 pm News. 5.00-5.30 pm News. 5.30-6.00 pm News. 6.00-6.30 pm News. 6.30-7.00 pm News. 7.00-7.30 pm News. 7.30-8.00 pm News. 8.00-8.30 pm News. 8.30-9.00 pm News. 9.00-9.30 pm News. 9.30-10.00 pm News. 10.00-10.30 pm News. 10.30-11.00 pm News. 11.00-11.30 pm News. 11.30-12.00 pm News. 12.00-12.30 pm News. 12.30-1.00 pm News. 1.00-1.30 pm 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